

Subject: Fwd: MT-AG-22-0538
Date: Monday, August 14, 2023 at 6:22:05 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Rachel Baron
To: AO Records
Attachments: image001.jpg, RESPONSE-MT-AG-22-0538.pdf

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From: Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 5:19:42 PM
To: Rachel Baron <rachel.baron@americanoversight.org>
Subject: MT-AG-22-0538

EXTERNAL SENDER

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached file for documents responsive to your request labeled "MT-AG-22-0538."

MT-AG-22-0538

Kyler Nerison
Communications Director
Attorney General Austin Knudsen, Montana Department of Justice
406-444-2031
Kyler.nerison@mt.gov



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Nerison, Kyler

From: Knudsen, Austin
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2022 4:45 PM
To: Theresa Manzella; Brad Tschida
Cc: Bob Phalen; jerry schillinger; Paul Fielder; Steven Galloway; Steve.gunderson@mtleg.gov
Subject: Montana voting concerns, request for information
Attachments: 102822 Ltr to legislators re Konnech.pdf

Senator and Representatives,

Please find attached a response letter to your letters dated October 13 and October 21, 2022.

Austin Knudsen
Montana Attorney General



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Nerison, Kyler

From: Knudsen, Austin
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2022 10:44 AM
To: Theresa Manzella
Cc: Brad Tschida; jerry schillinger; Steve Gunderson; Steven Galloway; Bob Phalen; Paul Fielder
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Konnech in Montana, Letter and slide show of evidence

Senator,

Thank you for your letter and attachment. This is certainly concerning information. I and my staff are reviewing what you provided, and assessing what tools the Department of Justice has at its disposal in this regard.

Austin Knudsen
Montana Attorney General

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-----Original Message-----

From: Theresa Manzella <theresa.manzella@mtleg.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2022 3:50 PM
To: Knudsen, Austin <Austin.Knudsen@mt.gov>
Cc: Brad Tschida <Brad.Tschida@mtleg.gov>; jerry schillinger <jerry.schillinger@mtleg.gov>; Steve Gunderson <rep.steve.gunderson@mt.gov>; Steven Galloway <steven.galloway@mtleg.gov>; Bob Phalen <Bob.phalen@mtleg.gov>; Paul Fielder <pcfielder@blackfoot.net>; theresa manzella <theresa.manzella@mtleg.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Konnech in Montana, Letter and slide show of evidence

Legislators are publicly elected officials. Legislator emails sent or received involving legislative business may be subject to the Right to Know provisions of the Montana Constitution and may be considered a "public record" pursuant to Montana law. As such, email, sent or received, its sender and receiver, and the email contents, may be subject to public disclosure, except as otherwise provided by Montana law.

Nerison, Kyler

From: Knudsen, Austin
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2022 10:44 AM
To: Theresa Manzella
Cc: Brad Tschida; Jerry Schillinger; Steve Gunderson; Steven Galloway; Bob Phalen; Paul Fielder
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Konnech in Montana, Letter and slide show of evidence

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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Konnech in Montana, Letter and slide show of evidence

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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Konnech in Montana, Letter and slide show of evidence
Attachments: Montana Konnech.pdf; 101322 LTR to AGKonnech.docx

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Nerison, Kyler

From: Ortleby, David
Sent: Thursday, October 6, 2022 1:16 PM
To: amastrovito@rebekahslegacy.com
Cc: Quentin Rhoades; Spinder, Travis; Lockerby, Bryan; Schultz, Laura; Mougeot, Kelly
Subject: Request for Criminal Justice Information

Mrs. Mastrovito:

Before addressing your October 6th email, I want to express my sincere sympathy on Rebekah's death, the loss of your daughter, and the anguish you have endured.

As you may be aware, I became involved in this matter when there were probate and guardianship proceedings earlier this year. I spoke with, and corresponded with, attorneys handling those matters. I have monitored the case since then to ensure that the Department of Justice stays within its statutory authority and obligations. I have consulted with the Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI), the Forensic Science Division (FSD), and the Prosecution Bureau Services Bureau. The Department of Justice does not have the statutory authority to inject itself into a pending local investigation without a specific request from the investigating agency. DCI has never been requested to investigate the circumstances of this case, and there is not a pending Department of Justice Investigation. The role of the Department of Justice has been to conduct an autopsy and toxicology analysis at the request of the Mineral County Coroner. Further, we took steps to ensure a second autopsy could be conducted at the lab and accommodated the independent Doctor conducting the examination.

Consistent with the Criminal Justice information Act, FSD will produce those records it generated, or are in possession of, so long as they are not a part of a pending criminal investigation, classified as criminal intelligence, or are such that an individual right to privacy outweighs the right to receive the material.

Because you now indicate that Mr. Rhodes is your lawyer, for more than the legal issues previously discussed, the Department of Justice is obligated to correspond directly with him as required by the rules of Professional Conduct. I will personally reach out to him, discuss your request, and reply as promptly as possible. Please direct any further request for information through your attorney's office.

Sincerely,

David M. Ortleby

Deputy Attorney General
Montana Dept. of Justice
215 North Sanders
P.O. Box 201401

Helena, MT 59620-1401
Phone: (406) 444-2078
david.ortley@mt.gov



Nerison, Kyler

From: Ortley, David
Sent: Thursday, October 6, 2022 1:16 PM
To: amastrovito@rebekahslegacy.com
Cc: Quentin Rhoades; Spinder, Travis; Lockerby, Bryan; Schultz, Laura; Mougeot, Kelly
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Sincerely,

David M. Ortley

Deputy Attorney General
Montana Dept. of Justice
215 North Sanders
P.O. Box 201401

Helena, MT 59620-1401
Phone: (406) 444-2078
david.ortley@mt.gov



Nerison, Kyler

From: johnrlott@crimeresearch.org <johnrlott@crimeresearch.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 1:17 PM
To: Mougeot, Kelly
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Follow up on the Montana Sports Shooting Association banquet on May 14th

Great, thank you.

John R. Lott, Jr., Ph.D.
President
Crime Prevention Research Center
<http://crimeresearch.org> [crimeresearch.org]
johnrlott@crimeresearch.org
[REDACTED]



On Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at Wednesday, May 11, 1:06 PM, Mougeot, Kelly <KMougeot@mt.gov> wrote:

Yes, he will do that.

Get [Outlook for iOS \[aka.ms\]](#)

From: johnrlott@crimeresearch.org [crimeresearch.org] <johnrlott@crimeresearch.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 12:11:42 PM
To: Mougeot, Kelly <KMougeot@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Follow up on the Montana Sports Shooting Association banquet on May 14th

Dear Kelly:

Given that this event is to honor the work that Gary Marbut has been doing for the last 40 years, we have been planning to present him with a plaque to thank him at the end of the evening. Since the AG will be the last speaker, I wanted to ask you if he would be willing to be the one to call Gary up on stage and give him the plaque at the end of his talk?

Thank you.
John

John R. Lott, Jr., Ph.D.
President
Crime Prevention Research Center
johnrlott@crimeresearch.org
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On May 4, 2022, at 2:30 PM, Mougeot, Kelly <KMougeot@mt.gov> wrote:

Hey John,

I just want to confirm, the AG will do Arron Flint show Thursday 5/12 at 9: 25 am, correct?

Kelly Mougeot

Executive Assistant

Attorney General Austin Knudsen, Montana Department of Justice

<image001.jpg>

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From: johnrlott crimeresearch.org [crimeresearch.org] <johnrlott@crimeresearch.org>

Sent: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 5:04 PM

To: Mougeot, Kelly <KMougeot@mt.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Follow up on the Montana Sports Shooting Association banquet on May 14th

I know that the AG has been on Aaron's show many times, and if they already have the telephone number for them to call, I will just tell them that and you won't have to give me the number.

Thank you.

John

John R. Lott, Jr., Ph.D.

President

Crime Prevention Research Center

<http://crimeresearch.org> [crimeresearch.org]

johnrlott@crimeresearch.org

[REDACTED]

<image002.jpg>

On Tuesday, May3, 2022, at Tuesday, May 3, 4:49 PM,
johnrlott@crimeresearch.org
[crimeresearch.org] <johnrlott@crimeresearch.org> wrote:

Awesome, thank you. Yes, it is by phone. Is there a number that you would like Aaron Flint to call on Thursday.

Thank you very much.

John

John R. Lott, Jr., Ph.D.
President
Crime Prevention Research Center
<http://crimeresearch.org> [crimeresearch.org]
johnrlott@crimeresearch.org
[REDACTED]

<CPRC JPEG Letter.jpeg>

On Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at Tuesday, May 3, 4:47 PM,
Mougeot, Kelly <KMougeot@mt.gov> wrote:

Hello John,

I think that that Thursday morning time will work just
fine. Just to clarify, this would be a phone interview,
correct?

Kelly Mougeot
Executive Assistant
Attorney General Austin Knudsen, Montana
Department of Justice

<image001.jpg>

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and delete the information you received in error immediately. Thank you.

From: johnrlott [crimeresearch.org](mailto:johnrlott@crimeresearch.org)
[\[crimeresearch.org\]](mailto:johnrlott@crimeresearch.org) <johnrlott@crimeresearch.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 1:25 PM
To: Mougeot, Kelly <KMougeot@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Follow up on the Montana
Sports Shooting Association banquet on May 14th

Thank you, Kelly. How about the radio show? Thank
you.

John R. Lott, Jr., Ph.D.
President
Crime Prevention Research Center
<http://crimeresearch.org> [crimeresearch.org]
johnrlott@crimeresearch.org
[REDACTED]

<image002.jpg>

On Tuesday, May3, 2022, at Tuesday,
May 3, 1:24 PM, Mougeot, Kelly
<KMougeot@mt.gov> wrote:

Steak

Kelly Mougeot
Executive Assistant
Attorney General Austin Knudsen,
Montana Department of Justice

<image001.jpg>

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From: johnrlott crimeresearch.org
[crimeresearch.org] <johnrlott@crimeresearch.org>

Sent: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 1:15 PM

To: Mougeot, Kelly

<KMougeot@mt.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Follow up on
the Montana Sports Shooting
Association banquet on May 14th

Dear Kelly:

One other point: what type of meals do
they want? Steak, fish, chicken?

Thank you.

John R. Lott, Jr., Ph.D.
President
Crime Prevention Research Center
<http://crimeresearch.org> [crimeresearch.org]
johnrlott@crimeresearch.org
[REDACTED]

<image002.jpg>

On Tuesday, May3,
2022, at Tuesday, May
3, 12:30 PM,
johnrlott [crimeresearch](http://crimeresearch.org)

.org
[crimeresearch.org] <jo
hnrlott@crimeresearch.
org> wrote:

Great, thank you very
much, Kelly.

BTW, we appreciate
him doing the KGVO
radio show on May
13th. is he available to
do Aaron Flint show on
at 9:25 AM, on
Thursday, May 12th to
get some publicity for
the banquet?

Thank you.

John R. Lott, Jr., Ph.D.
President
Crime Prevention Research
Center
<http://crimeresearch.org>
[\[crimeresearch.org\]](mailto:johnrlott@crimeresearch.org)
[johnrlott@crimeresearch.o](mailto:johnrlott@crimeresearch.org)
[rg](mailto:johnrlott@crimeresearch.org)

<CPRC JPEG Letter.jpeg>

On Tue
sday,
May3,
2022,
at
Tuesda
y, May
3,
12:05
PM,
Mouge
ot, Kelly
<[KMou
geot@
mt.gov](mailto:KMougeot@mt.gov)
>
wrote:

Hey
John,

I spoke
to the
AG and
his wife
is going
to join
him so
she will
need a
ticket.
He will
not
need a
hotel
room.

Thank
you!

**Kelly
Moug
eot**

Executi
ve
Assista
nt
Attorn
ey
Genera
l

Austin
Knuds
en,
Monta
na

Depart
ment
of
Justice

<imag
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CONFIDE
NTIALITY
NOTICE:
This email
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informatio
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Attorney
General's
Office
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confidenti
al and/or
privileged.

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intended
recipient,
please do
not
disclose,
copy,
distribute
or use the
contents
of this
informatio
n. Please
notify me
by return
email and
delete the
informatio
n you
received
in error
immediate
ly. Thank
you.

From: j
ohnrlot
t crimer
esearch
.org
[crimer
esearch
.org] <j
ohnrlot
t@crim
eresear
ch.org>

Sent: S
unday,
May 1,
2022
9:12
PM

To: Mo
ugeot,
Kelly
<KMou
geot@
mt.gov
>

Subject
: [EXTE
RNAL]
Follow

up on
the
Montan
a
Sports
Shootin
g
Associa
tion
banque
t on
May
14th

Dear
Kelly:

There
are two
issues
that I
hoped
to talk
to you
about.

1) How
many
tickets
with
the AG
want to
have?
We are
providi
ng a
hotel
room
for him,
and if
there
are
other
expens
es,
please
let me
know.

2) In
the
form

that I filled out for you all and in earlier discussions, we had talked about Knudsen doing Aaron Flint's statewide radio show and KGVO in Missouri with Peter Christian before the banquet to try to sell some tickets. I know that the AG has been on both of these radio shows many times, but in case it helps, Aaron can be reached at Aar

on.Flint
@town
square
media.c
om and
Peter
at peter
c@cent
ric.net.

Please
let me
know if
you
have
any
questio
ns.
Thank
you
very
much,
and we
are
very
excited
to have
the AG
be the
keynot
e
speaker
at our
event.
John

John R.
Lott, Jr.,
Ph.D.
Presiden
t
Crime
Preventi
on
Research
Center
http://cri
meresea
rch.org
jcrimere
search.or
g
johnrlott
@crimer

esearch.
org



<image0
02.jpg>

Nerison, Kyler

From: Contact DOJ
Sent: Thursday, May 5, 2022 11:33 AM
To: Mougeot, Kelly
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Addressing the Issue of Tribal Voting on Tribal lands
Attachments: Knudsen Lawsuit Letter.docx

FYI

From: Brad Tschida <betschida54@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 5, 2022 11:18 AM
To: Austin Knudsen <austin@austinformontana.com>
Cc: Contact DOJ <contactdoj@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Addressing the Issue of Tribal Voting on Tribal lands

AG Knudsen:

Please review the attached letter, which is being mailed to you today with hopefully receipt by tomorrow.

Respectfully,

Rep Brad Tschida

Nerison, Kyler

From: Tonkay, Alden
Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 2:04 PM
To: Mougeot, Kelly
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: SOS Obstruction of my Legislative Responsibilities
Attachments: AG and SOS Voting Interference.docx; 2021 04 15 SOS Jacobsen to Montana.pdf

From: Contact DOJ <contactdoj@mt.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 2:02 PM
To: Tonkay, Alden <Alden.Tonkay@mt.gov>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: SOS Obstruction of my Legislative Responsibilities

From: Brad Tschida <betschida54@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 2:23 AM
To: Contact DOJ <contactdoj@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: SOS Obstruction of my Legislative Responsibilities

Dear AG Knudsen:

It has been 8 days since I sent the original message to you concerning what I consider to be obstruction attempts, by Dana Corson in th SoS office, directed at my efforts to determine the causes behind voter irregularities in Montana. I am specifically referring to his failure to provide information I sought from 11/4/2020 to evaluate the votes and voters in the 2020 election.

I know that your office is tremendously busy, but the security of our elections, seen by nearly 60% of Americans as being in question, demands an immediate remedy.

I am at a point where I am planning to publicly admonish Mr. Corson's failures to provide information to me, for which I paid \$1,000.00, by sending a letter to him, immediately followed by an editorial to Montana newspapers identifying his failures. While preferring to conduct my request for provision of data privately, his recalcitrance to this points leave few options available.

I will await some response from your office as to any communication provided to you by Mr. Corson. However, If I do not hear from you office by 1/17/22, I will use alternative plans to force Mr. Corson to fulfill my paid request.

Respectfully,

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Brad Tschida <betschida54@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jan 3, 2022 at 10:51 AM
Subject: SOS Obstruction of my Legislative Responsibilities
To: <contactdoj@mt.gov>

Dear AG Knudsen:

Please find attached my letter concerning the subject of my email, as well as a corresponding piece of information referenced in my letter.

If the further information which I referenced in my letter is also deemed necessary, I will send that at your specific request,

Respectfully,

Rep. Brad Tschida

Nerison, Kyler

From: Contact DOJ
Sent: Monday, December 13, 2021 2:11 PM
To: Mougeot, Kelly
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Meeting with AG Knudsen

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Brad Tschida <betschida54@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 13, 2021 2:09 PM
To: Contact DOJ <contactdoj@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meeting with AG Knudsen

I have attempted to send this message to the AG through the DOJ email site. It keeps asking me for a meeting time which, after completing that line, refuses to accept my message.

My message to the AG is as follows:

Dear AG Knudsen:

We live in some of the most critical times in US History. The preservation of our Republic, from the efforts of those who would like to see it destroyed, is of grave concern to us all. While a critical time, those of us in our current positions to address these attacks must rise to the occasion. While I wish the duty did not fall to either of us, it has, and we are impelled to fulfill our Constitutional duties in this regard.

I just finished reading the 82-page case prepared by Mike Lindell and, despite possessing neither a legal degree nor a background in the law, it is eminently clear that the rights of all Americans were compromised as a result of the federal and state statutes violated by the defendant states and their political subdivisions. I am also concerned about the apparent lack of election integrity in MT. Despite the fact that Republicans swept all statewide elections, I believe our vote totals were much greater than the results shown in 2020. Much of that belief is predicated on the poorly maintained voter rolls in MT. The aberrations discovered thus far in my research appear to support my contention.

Since nearly 3 in 5 persons in America believe that the 2020 election contained irregularities / fraud / aberrations, this is not a Republican v. Democrat issue. This is an American issue in which all Americans can find a common stake.

Sen. Manzella and I request a 15-minute conference call with you to enlist your support and participation in this lawsuit. As the chief law enforcement officer in MT, the need to ask for your support in this regard is self-evident.

Please confirm a time for this call to take place, at your earliest opportunity. To say that time is off the essence is stating the obvious.

Thank you for your courageous service thus far on behalf of all Montanans. You are where you are for reasons that may not be known on this side of the veil.

Respectfully,

Nerison, Kyler

From: Mougeot, Kelly on behalf of Contact DOJ
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 11:59 AM
To: dan.happel1950@gmail.com
Cc: tschida4mthouse@outlook.com
Subject: Emailed Packet

Hello Dan,

Kris Hansen has the packet that you sent.

Thank you,
Contact DOJ
Attorney General Austin Knudsen, Montana Department of Justice



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Nerison, Kyler

From: Quentin Rhoades <qmr@montanalawyer.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 7:52 AM
To: Dewhirst, David
Cc: Mougeot, Kelly
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: "Wildfire use" injunction action

Many thanks. Have a good "short" week!

From: Dewhirst, David <David.Dewhirst@mt.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 7:45 AM
To: Quentin Rhoades <qmr@montanalawyer.com>
Cc: Mougeot, Kelly <KMougeot@mt.gov>
Subject: RE: "Wildfire use" injunction action

We do! Although that's as tech-specific as I can be about it. We have had presentations in there using power point.

Copying Kelly in case you have more specific questions.

David Dewhirst
Solicitor General
Office of Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen
david.dewhirst@mt.gov
406.444.4145

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#

From: Quentin Rhoades <qmr@montanalawyer.com>
Sent: Monday, September 6, 2021 9:51 PM
To: Dewhirst, David <David.Dewhirst@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: "Wildfire use" injunction action

David, I trust you are well. We have a PowerPoint for our meeting next week. Do you have a conference room with AV facilities?

~ Quentin Rhoades

Dictated but not read. Please forgive Siri for her scrivener's errors.

On Jul 26, 2021, at 3:19 PM, Dewhirst, David <David.Dewhirst@mt.gov> wrote:

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david.dewhirst@mt.gov

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Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 12:29 PM
To: Dewhirst, David <David.Dewhirst@mt.gov>
Subject: RE: "Wildfire use" injunction action

Hey David,

I wanted to let you know that I have not heard from Quentin yet.

Kelly Mougeot

Executive Assistant

Attorney General Austin Knudsen, Montana Department of Justice

<image002.jpg>

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To: gmr@montanalawyer.com
Subject: RE: "Wildfire use" injunction action

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8/17 1 pm – 2:30 pm

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All the best,

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Subject: RE: "Wildfire use" injunction action

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Subject: [EXTERNAL] "Wildfire use" injunction action

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<image004.jpg>

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406.721.9700 montanalawyer.com [montanalawyer.com]

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Attorney General Austin Knudsen, Montana Department of Justice

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<image004.jpg>

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406.721.9700 montanalawyer.com [montanalawyer.com]

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Nerison, Kyler

From: Quentin Rhoades <qmr@montanalawyer.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 9:54 AM
To: DOJ Attorney General
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Accepted: Wildfire Presentation

Nerison, Kyler

Subject: Wildfire Presentation
Location: 215 N Sanders St Helena MT 59601; AG Conference room

Start: Tue 9/14/2021 1:00 PM
End: Tue 9/14/2021 3:00 PM
Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: Mougeot, Kelly
Required Attendees: Dewhirst, David; Corrigan, Christian; Smithgall, Katie; Mead, Brent; DOJ AG Conf; Oestreicher, Derek; qmr@montanalawyer.com; Kaylie@montanalawyer.com; fcarrolls1@msn.com

Requester:

Quentin Rhoades, Rhoades, Siefert & Erickson, PLLC

Point of Contact:

Kelly Mougeot, 406-444-1909

Location/Phone #:

Mazurek Building, 215 N Sanders, 3rd floor, Helena, MT 59601 406-444-2026

Details:

Rhoades, Siefert & Erickson would like to show a presentation concerning the USFS's policy of using unplanned fires for resource benefits and present their theory for pursuing an injunction action against the US government so stop this practice from happening.

Nerison, Kyler

From: Quentin Rhoades <qmr@montanalawyer.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 9:17 AM
To: Mougeot, Kelly
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Automatic reply: "Wildfire use" injunction action

Greetings,

Thank you for the note. Unfortunately, I will be out of the office on other business out of state until Monday August 9, 2021. I do appreciate your patience and apologize for any inconvenience.

Quentin Rhoades
Rhoades, Siefert & Erickson, PLLC
406.721.9700

Nerison, Kyler

From: Quentin Rhoades <qmr@montanalawyer.com>
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 9:26 PM
To: Mougeot, Kelly
Cc: Kaylie Hegel; Frank Carroll
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: "Wildfire use" injunction action

Let's plan on 9/14. Sorry for the delay. Lots of fire this summer. Keeping me hopping! Thanks!

~ Quentin Rhoades

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On Jul 21, 2021, at 11:11 AM, Mougeot, Kelly <KMougeot@mt.gov> wrote:

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All the best,

Kelly Mougeot

Executive Assistant

Attorney General Austin Knudsen, Montana Department of Justice

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Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 10:31 AM
To: Quentin Rhoades <qmr@montanalawyer.com>
Cc: Mougeot, Kelly <KMougeot@mt.gov>
Subject: RE: "Wildfire use" injunction action

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David Dewhirst

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david.dewhurst@mt.gov
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From: Quentin Rhoades <qmr@montanalawyer.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 9:05 AM
To: Dewhurst, David <David.Dewhurst@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] "Wildfire use" injunction action

Hello Dave,

Greetings from Missoula. To follow-up on our telephone call from last week, I would be available, potentially on dates from mid-August to mid-September, to discuss with you and your team our theory for pursuing an injunction action against the US government to stop USFS from allowing lightning caused fires to burn as part of an overall land management strategy. USFS's policy of using unplanned fires for resource benefits, to the detriment of the air quality and to the grave risk to non-federal lands, we believe, is not authorized by law. As such, we believe we can persuade a federal court, on behalf of a party with standing (such as the State of Montana), to enjoin such activity, at least until the policy is brought into compliance with federal procedural and substantive law. Complying with the procedural law would require USFS to disclose publicly their justifications for the current policy. Given the experience of the last 10 years, moreover, squaring the current policy with the substantive law is likely not possible, which would result in an end to the annual cycle of destruction. In short, USFS should be pursuing the same zero-tolerance firefighting policies as the DNRC.

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<image001.jpg>

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Nerison, Kyler

From: Dewhirst, David
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 3:22 PM
To: Quentin Rhoades
Cc: Mougeot, Kelly
Subject: RE: "Wildfire use" injunction action

Absolutely! No problem. Safe travels.

David Dewhirst
Solicitor General
Office of Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen
david.dewhirst@mt.gov
406.444.4145

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Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 3:21 PM
To: Dewhirst, David <David.Dewhirst@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: "Wildfire use" injunction action

Hello David,

I'm in Salt Lake City heading for Phoenix on the Tamarack Fire. Can I get back to you this evening? I apologize for the delay.

~ Quentin Rhoades

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Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 9:05 AM
To: Dewhirst, David <David.Dewhirst@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] "Wildfire use" injunction action

Hello Dave,

Greetings from Missoula. To follow-up on our telephone call from last week, I would be available, potentially on dates from mid-August to mid-September, to discuss with you and your team our theory for pursuing an injunction action against the US government to stop USFS from allowing lightening caused fires to burn as part of an overall land management strategy. USFS's policy of using unplanned fires for resource benefits, to the detriment of the air quality and to the grave risk to non-federal lands, we believe, is not authorized by law. As such, we believe we can persuade a federal court, on behalf of a party with standing (such as the State of Montana), to enjoin such activity, at least until the policy is brought into compliance with federal procedural and substantive law. Complying with the procedural law would require USFS to disclose publicly their justifications for the current policy. Given the experience of the last 10 years, moreover, squaring the current policy with the substantive law is likely not possible, which would result in an end to the annual cycle of destruction. In short, USFS should be pursuing the same zero-tolerance firefighting policies as the DNRC.

I'd like to be considered for appointment as special assistant AG for the purposes of pursuing such an action, if you or Attorney General Knudsen would be interested. If you'd like to meet for a presentation on our theories and our proposal, please let me know. Many thanks.

Quentin M. Rhoades, Esq.

rhoades
siefert &
erickson | trial attorneys
406.721.9700 ^{PLLC} montanalawyer.com [montanalawyer.com]

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This communication is confidential and subject to attorney/client privilege. If you received this communication in error, please immediately notify the sender and destroy all copies (electronic or otherwise).

Nerison, Kyler

From: Dewhirst, David
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 10:31 AM
To: Quentin Rhoades
Cc: Mougeot, Kelly
Subject: RE: "Wildfire use" injunction action

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Thanks, Quentin. I think you should come in and meet with us. Very interested in a presentation. Copying Kelly Mougeot, who can find a good time to put something on the calendar. Thanks!

David Dewhirst
Solicitor General
Office of Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen
david.dewhirst@mt.gov
406.444.4145

CONFIDENTIAL—PRIVILEGED—DELIBERATIVE

Notice: This email message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential, privileged, or deliberative and pre-decisional material, including attorney-client communications and attorney work product. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure, or distribution is prohibited. This electronic transmission does not constitute a waiver of privilege. If you are not the intended recipient, and have received this message in error, please contact the sender immediately by email reply and destroy all copies of the original message, including any attachments.

#

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Quentin M. Rhoades, Esq.

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AUSTIN KNUDSEN



STATE OF MONTANA

October 28, 2022

Senator Theresa Manzella
640 Gold Creek Loop
Hamilton, MT 59840

Representative Brad Tschida
10825 Mullan Road
Missoula, MT 59808

RE: Montana voting concerns, request for investigation

Senator Manzella and Representative Tschida, and colleagues,

I received your letters dated October 13, 2022 and October 21, 2022, respectively, communicating your concerns about Montana voting software, Konnech Corporation and its affiliates, the California criminal indictment of Konnech CEO Eugene Yu, and Konnech's and affiliates' connections to the State of Montana. Additionally, your letters ask that the Montana Department of Justice investigate, and if appropriate, prosecute either criminally or civilly any violations found. Finally, Representative Tschida specifically asked that I assign a team of Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) agents to investigate this matter.

At the outset, I share your concerns. The allegations and known facts surrounding Konnech and Mr. Yu and his connections to Communist China are indeed alarming. Secretary of State Jacobsen and I have discussed this matter, and we both agree that protecting voter integrity and the private personal information of Montana citizens is of utmost importance. Secretary Jacobsen informed me that she, as the chief elections officer for the State of Montana, sent a letter to Konnech and Votem and has received responses back from both companies assuring compliance. Additionally, Secretary Jacobsen informed me that Konnech's 2012 contract with the State of Montana is terminated and that a new voting system is soon to be in place.

On the DOJ side: bluntly, I do not have a team of DCI agents available to investigate this matter. DCI has a relatively small number of agents, generally divided into two (2) primary investigative bureaus: the Narcotics/Human Trafficking Bureau; and the Major Crimes Bureau. Theoretically, your request would fall to the Major Crimes Bureau. The Major Crimes Bureau consists of eleven (11) agents: ten (10) FTE positions and one (1) modified position. These agents are stretched to their absolute

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

215 North Broadway | 407-444-3025
PO Box 21491 | Contact@doj.mt.gov
Helena, MT 59621-1491 | mtloa.gov

AUSTIN KNUDSEN



STATE OF MONTANA

maximum investigating Montana's most heinous violent crimes: Deliberate Homicide, Sexual Intercourse Without Consent, and Sexual Assault. I don't need to tell any of you that these crimes have increased drastically in Montana since 2014. Additionally, this team of DCI agents investigates nearly all Officer Involved Shootings (OIS), for nearly all of the county sheriff's offices and municipal police departments in Montana. This is done so these local agencies avoid the appearance of conflict of interest by "investigating themselves." Again, I doubt I need to tell any of you that officer involved shootings in Montana have also skyrocketed in recent years, largely as a result of the huge increases in illegal drugs and violent crime in Montana. A DCI investigation into voting software is simply not feasible at this time.

While I cannot spare any DCI agents, I do have other investigative tools at my disposal. Because this matter involves the potential breach of Montana citizens' personal data, the DOJ's Office of Consumer Protection (OCP) can investigate this matter. I have discussed this matter with Secretary of State Jacobsen, and she agrees this is a prudent course of action. As such, I have directed OCP leadership to begin such an investigation.

Please be assured that I take this matter seriously and will use every practicable tool at my disposal to investigate.

Sincerely,

Austin Knudsen
Montana Attorney General

CC: Rep. Bob Phalen
Rep. Jerry Schillinger
Rep. Paul Fielder
Rep. Steven Galloway
Rep. Steve Gunderson

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

205 North Central Street

Butte, MT 59701

Phone: (406) 241-3300

406-644-0000

www.mt.gov

mt.dca@mt.gov

Montana Electronic Absentee System (EAS) Konnech History

A review of documentation and current events related to the implementation timeline, development evolution, and organizational structure of Montana's UOCAVA online voting system; software developed in collaboration with voting software company Konnech Inc and CEO Eugene Yu.

Research prepared October 11, 2022 by:

Roy McKenzie
Western Montana News
roy@westernmt.news

Chris Kortlander
Montana Broadcasting Radio Group LLC
chris@historicalrarities.com



CHRISTI JACOBSEN
MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE

Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act
Electronic Absentee System (EAS)

2022 Montana Secretary of State EAS Overview

**What is the
Montana
Electronic
Absentee
System
(EAS)?**

THE UNIFORMED AND OVERSEAS CITIZENS ABSENTEE VOTING ACT (UOCAVA)

UOCAVA created special provisions to make registering to vote, obtaining, returning, and tracking absentee ballots easier for members of the armed forces, their families and overseas U.S. citizens who are absent from their Montana voting residence.

ELECTRONIC ABSENTEE SYSTEM (EAS)

The EAS provides Montana voters covered under UOCAVA with a one-stop online service to seamlessly prepare voter registration materials and mark their ballot.

UOCAVA Voters

Montana resident
their place of resic

- Member of th
- Spouse or dep
- U.S. citizen re

- Access the EAS from either:

- The Secretary of State's website: <https://sosmt.gov/elections/military-overseas/>
- The EAS website: <https://www.Vote4Montana.us>

- Complete the affirmation and user information.
- Once approved, an email will be sent to confirm your information and provide a pin # to access your ballot.
- Follow the instructions for each step of the online service.

AVAILABILITY

Montana resident

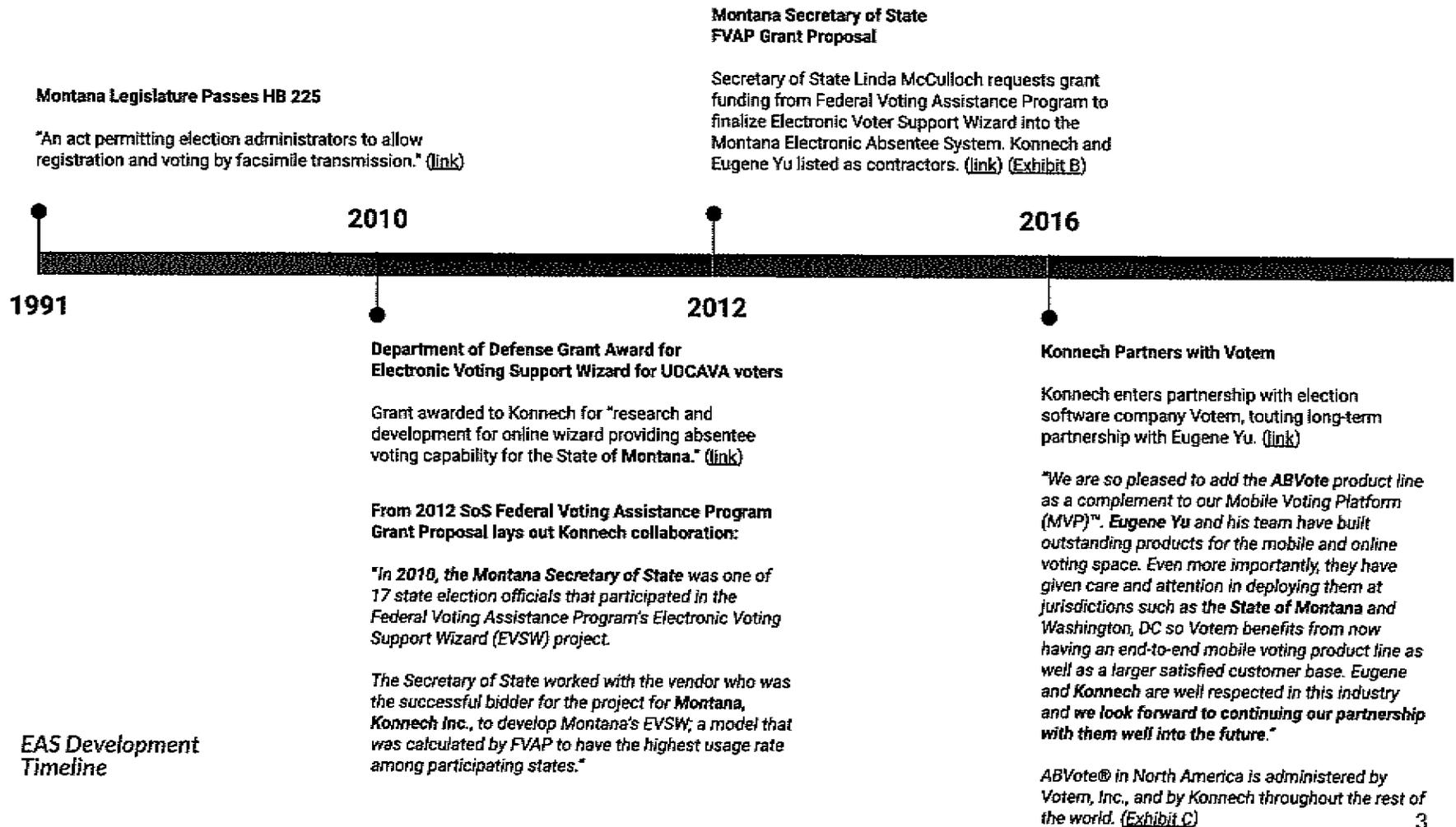
Step 2: Mark Ballot

- Mark your ballot selections.
- Review and confirm your ballot selections.

Step 3: Submit Ballot

- Select your ballot submission method:
- Depending on the return method you selected, save or print your marked ballot and related materials.
 - If returning by email, you must first save as a PDF, then attach to an email. Ensure your identification number [MT driver's license number OR last four of social security number] or digital signature is used in lieu of signature are included on the cover sheet.
 - If returning by fax or mail, ensure that your cover sheet includes your signature.
- Return your ballot and supporting documents to your Montana county election office.
- Track your ballot online at My Voter Page or contact your Montana county election office.





LA District Attorney Arrests Eugene Yu

Eugene Yu, CEO of Konnech, Inc., is arrested by Los Angeles District Attorney George Gascon in connection with poll worker data stored on servers in the People's Republic of China. [\(link\)](#) [\(Exhibit E\)](#)

Oct 6 2022

Oct 4 2022

Detroit, Michigan Halts Use of Konnech Software

"Detroit Clerk Janice Winfrey says her office has decided to stop using a Michigan-based election software vendor that's facing a high-profile data breach allegation involving poll worker information." [\(link\)](#)

Fairfax, Virginia Halts Use of Konnech Software

Since learning about the arrest, the Fairfax County Office of Elections has halted using Konnech's PollChief election officer management software, Eric Spicer, the director and general registrar of the county's Office of Elections, said in an emailed statement to The Epoch Times on Oct. 6." [\(link\)](#)

*EAS Development
Timeline*

Montana Electronic Absentee System

2012 Technical Proposal Montana Secretary of State

CFDA: 12.217

BAA: HQ0034-FVAP-U1-BAA-0001

CAGE Code: [REDACTED]

DUNS: [REDACTED]

Montana Secretary of State, Linda McCallloch

Administrative Contact:

Lisa Kimmel
601 Box 20294
Helena, Montana 59620
lisa.kimmel@mt.gov
P: (406) 444-3378
F: (406) 444-2023

Technical Contact:

Justin Wendland *Cooley Sjs*
401 Box 20280
Helena, Montana 59620
jwendland@mt.gov
P: (406) 444-3931
F: (406) 444-2023

11.9.2013

Period of Performance: July 1, 2014 – December 31, 2020

06 January 2012 through 30 November

Executive Summary

Access to voting for Montana's absent military citizens, their families, and overseas citizens has been a priority for the Montana Secretary of State. Montana has been at the forefront providing electronic voting capabilities for UOCAVA voters for several decades. Past legislation authorizing the use of electronic means for voting in 1991, Montana was one of the first states to address the challenges for voters covered under UOCAVA.

In 2010, the Montana Secretary of State was one of 17 state election officials that participate in the Federal Voting Assistance Program's Electronic Voting Support Wizard (EVS/W) program and was one of a handful of states that included all local jurisdictions in the program. Secretary of State worked with the vendor who was the successful bidder for the project Montana, Konsech Inc., to develop Montana's EVS/W, a model that was calculated by FVA has the highest usage rate among participating states.

Planning for the 2012 election cycle, Montana has the advantage of being able to analyze successes and failures of the 2010 program, and to build a better product for even better use for 2012.

The Secretary of State has been working since completion of the 2010 general election to strengthen the electronic ballot marking tool to address the following main areas:

- Security of the voter's provided personal identification number
- Seamless access to and preparation of voter registration materials
- Accurate ballot access for re-solicited registrations
- Electronic ballot access for primary election as well as general election
- Defined tracking of types of users for utilization in the national research effort
- Outreach to UOCAVA voters regarding availability of services, including the electronic absentee system.

These efforts will not only benefit absent military voters, their families and overseas citizens, will also benefit the national research effort by providing more detailed data on each type user, as well as data on the trend for voter registration and successful ballot UOCAVA voters.

Montana's tradition of high voter participation for UOCAVA voters, combined with outreach and access efforts during the 2012 election cycle made possible with FVAP grant program, will help Montana to again be at the forefront for satisfaction for all eligible UOCAVA voters. A voter who utilized Montana's system, summing up the affect the Wizard had on his right to vote.

"Hi Dave,
The voting system itself was easy to use and greatly appreciated. Last time I was even trying to vote, with this system I will experience..... I would recommend it for absentee ballot. *Marilyn, Joseph*"

TECHNICAL APPROACH

Montana's technical approach is detailed below and includes descriptions of the goals of the Secretary of State that meet the Federal Voting Assistance Program's grant objectives to assist UOCAVA voters.

Goals and Objectives

Goal No. 1

To improve the UOCAVA voter experience in Montana through the development of a successful, sustainable and affordable Electronic Absentee System (EAS). This goal was partially met in 2010 with the Ballot Marking Wizard established in conjunction with the FVAP and Konsech, Inc. Enhancements to the 2010 service will further improve those voting opportunities.

- **Successful:** Montana's 2010 absentee service was calculated by FVAP to have the highest usage rate among participating states. Montana can build on that success by implementing the enhancements described in this proposal.
- **Sustainable:** Montana's Electronic Absentee Service will be sustainable because of the Montana Secretary of State's commitment to researching and providing new and innovative approaches to making voting more efficient and accessible for voters covered under UOCAVA. Sustainability funding will be provided by remaining funds in Montana's Help America Vote Act fund, office funds, and Federal Voting Assistance Grant funds.
- **Affordable:** Montana plans to partner with Konsech, Inc. to build the 2010 service, utilizing a 2010 FVAP grant opportunity. Between Konsech, Inc. and the Montana Secretary of State, resources in the form of personnel and time have been allocated to developing the necessary enhancements to the service for 2012. Technology that was developed for another service, the Google Voting Information Project is used to match a voter with the correct precinct specific ballot, drastically reducing development costs. Affordability for 2012 is

Collaborations

Montana's collaborative efforts will involve working closely with, and seeking ideas and input from the following entities:

- The Federal Voting Assistance Program
- The Montana National Guard
- Montana Army, Navy, Air Force, and Reserve units, through commanders and contact established during the 2010 Wizard process
- Montana's 56 county election administrators
- The Montana Election and Technology Advisory Council
- A consortium of states with the same ballot creation vendor, including North and South Dakota

Contractors

- Konsech Inc.
 - Eugene Yu
 - Laura Potter

Current and Pending Project Proposal Submissions

- Montana is not involved in any complimentary proposals, current or pending

Montana Electronic Absentee System
2012 Technical Proposal Montana Secretary of State.
Federal Voting Assistance Program grant application.
https://www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Grants/Montana_application.pdf

Department of Defense Grant

From Jul. 2010 to Jan. 2011, the **Department of Defense** granted **Konnech** with a Blanket Purchase Agreement award of \$91,617 ([exhibit D](#)) to “provide research and development for an online wizard providing absentee voting capability for the **State of Montana.**”

EAS Development Evolution

Montana Electronic Voting Support Wizard (EVSW)

Montana Electronic Voting Support Wizard implemented in 2010 for UOCAVA voting “in conjunction with FVAP and **Konnech, Inc.**” as noted in 2012 FVAP grant proposal from **Montana Secretary of State Linda McCulloch.**

Montana SoS FVAP Grant Application

In 2012, **Montana Secretary of State Linda McCulloch** requests Federal Voting Assistance Program grant to “improve the UOCAVA voter experience in Montana through the development of a successful, sustainable and affordable **Electronic Absentee System (EAS).**”

Montana Electronic Absentee System (EAS)

Since at least 2013, the **Montana EAS** has been active, according to Internet Archive which recorded [snapshots](#) of portal ([vote4montana.us](#)).

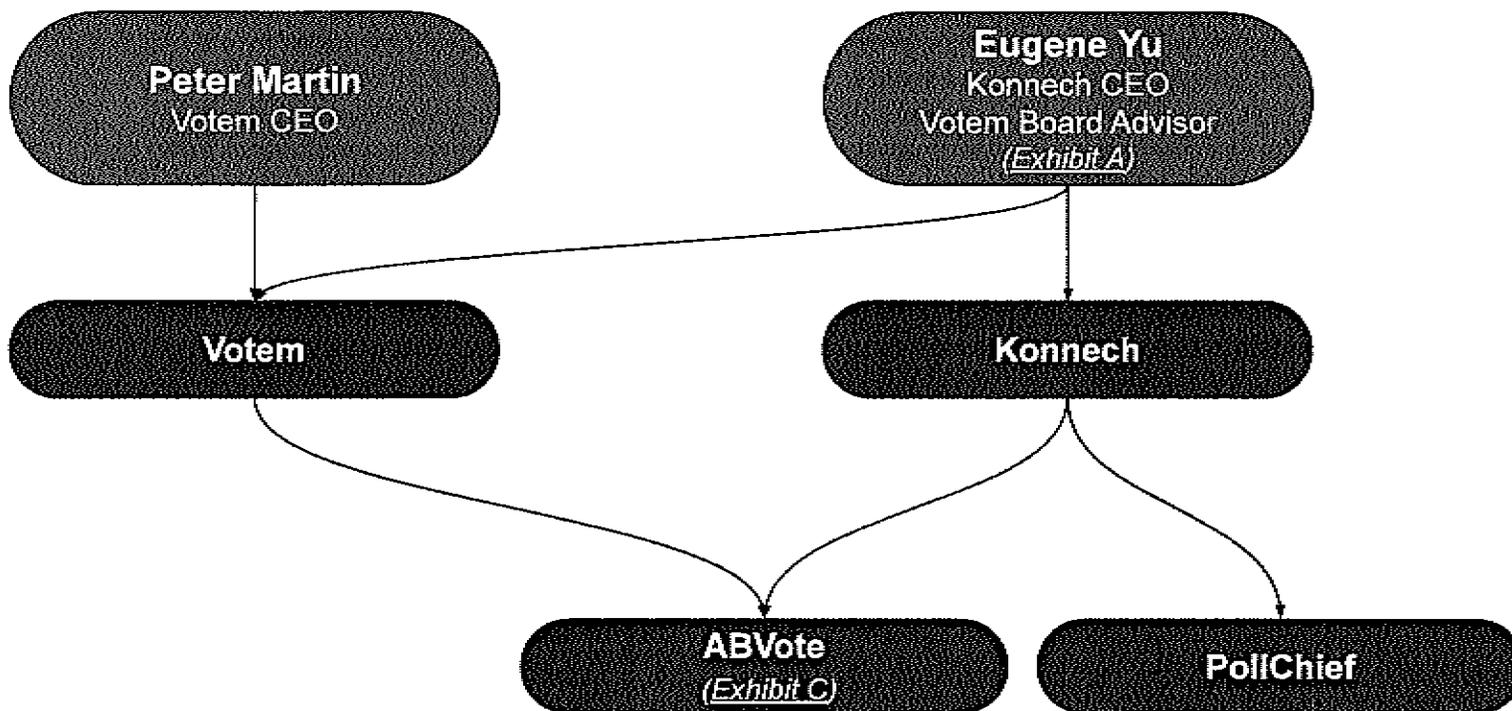
Konnech and Votem Partnership

In February 2016, Votem entered into a partnership with Konnech for access to their ABVote software. The software was was deployed prior to 2016 in Montana for use as the Montana Electronic Absentee System.

Pete Martin, CEO of Votem, stated, "We are so pleased to add the ABVote product line as a complement to our Mobile Voting Platform (MVP)". Eugene Yu and his team have built outstanding products for the mobile and online voting space. Even more importantly, they have given care and attention in deploying them at jurisdictions such as the State of Montana and Washington, DC so Votem benefits from now having an end-to-end mobile voting product line as well as a larger satisfied customer base. Eugene and Konnech are well respected in this industry and we look forward to continuing our partnership with them well into the future."

Eugene Yu, CEO of Konnech, remarked, "Votem has quickly become a leader in the online voting market with a number of exciting accomplishments including the completion of their Global Innovation Challenge which brought together some of the best minds in the world to develop their secure online voting platform. Konnech is very happy to become a long-term partner of Votem so we can contribute our industry experience to speed up the implementation of new voting technologies, and enjoy mutual success in what is both a challenging and rewarding business."

Votem Announces Acquisition of Mobile Voting Business. February 15, 2016



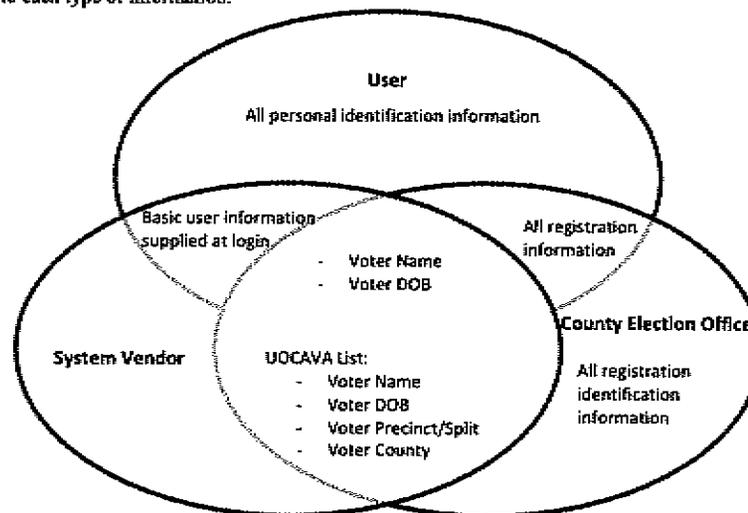
*Konnech and Votem
Relationship*

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Personal Identification Information

The personal identification information of UOCAVA and disabled persons using the Montana Electronic Absentee System is accessible to Konnech including: login information, name, DOB, precinct, county,

The following diagram displays the correlation between personal information and the party with access to each type of information.



Source: Montana FVAP Grant Proposal (Page 5)

Konnech Chinese Counterpart

Jinhua Hongzheng Technology Co., Ltd is chinese company that "focuses on providing software products and overall solutions related to election, voting and voting for domestic government organs at all levels, CPPCC [Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference]," according to an [announcement](#) for the company on Weibo, the Chinese version of Twitter.

In the announcement, the company's "predecessor" was named as "Konnech., Ltd." described as a company founded in 2005 that does "software offshoring services for more than a decade, listing the State of Montana as a client.

Page machine translated to English

金華宏正科技有限公司简介

Jin Huahong is pursuing a corporate culture of "learning, pragmatism and innovation". Founded in November 2005, its predecessor, Konnech., Ltd. is a software company that has been engaged in software offshoring services for more than a decade as a partner of Microsoft for 10 years. r Partner and Apple's six-year-old iOS Enterprise Developer have multi-software copyright and product invention patents.

Overseus customers served more than 20 government customers in North America, including Washington, D.C., and Edmonton, Canada.

美国 华盛顿特区	美国弗吉尼亚州 劳登谷郡	美国密歇根州 底特律市	美国密苏里州 圣路易斯郡	加拿大阿尔伯塔省 埃德蒙顿市
美国 蒙大拿州	美国弗吉尼亚州 威廉王子郡	美国密苏里州 圣查尔斯郡	美国佛罗里达州 希尔斯伯勒郡	加拿大萨斯喀彻温省 萨斯卡通市

Source: Jinhua Hongzheng Technology Co., Ltd. Weibo. April 14, 2016
<https://archive.ph/8x1aq>

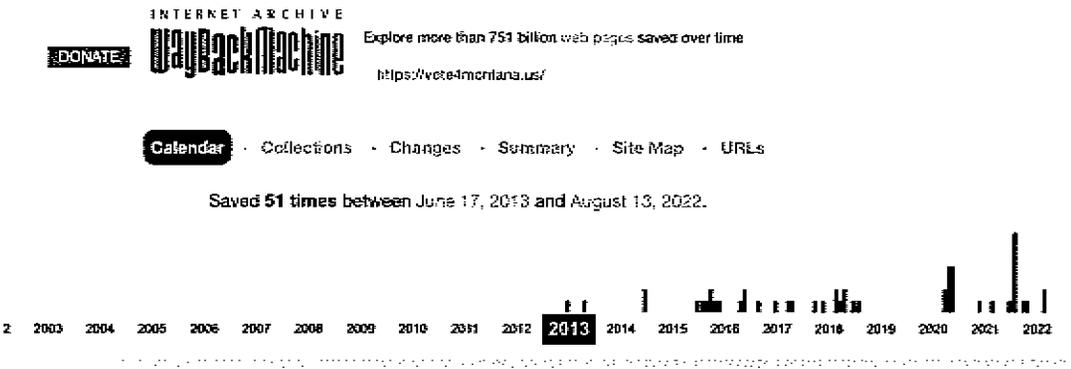


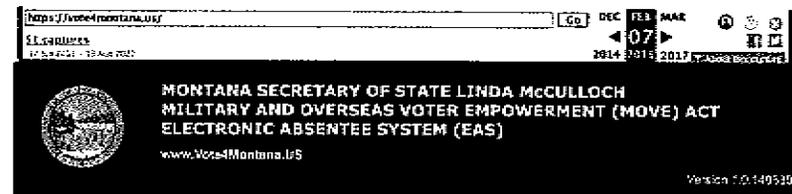
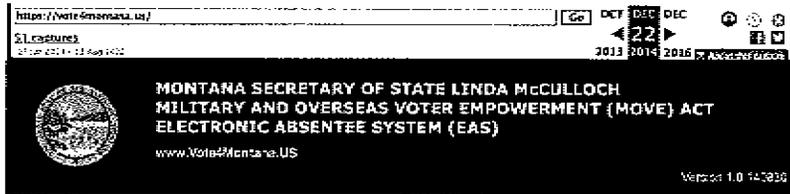
The Seal of the State of Montana on Chinese election software company Jinhua Hongzheng Technology Co., Ltd. website.

CC-0 BY-NC-SA

Montana EAS Portal

The Montana EAS platform portal has been in use since at least 2013, according to Internet Archive snapshots. The portal's software version has moved sequentially from 1.0.x to 2.0.0 since at least December 14, 2014 to October 10, 2022.





Polls in Montana have now closed.

If you are currently unregistered, and would like to register and request absentee ballots for future elections, please fill out an FPCA and submit it to your county election office. Register and request an absentee ballot for the next election by clicking [HERE](#).

You can track election results as they come in at <http://electionresults.sos.mt.gov>.

Thank you for visiting the Montana Electronic Absentee System.

Montana Secretary of State • P.O. Box 203801 • Helena, MT 59620-2801
 (406) 444-8685 or toll free at 1-888-604-6683 • spes@elections.sos.mt.gov • Fax: (406) 444-2023
 List of Montana County Election Administrators

Thank for your interest in the Montana Electronic Absentee System (EAS) for absent military and overseas citizen voters. The EAS will open for the 2016 Primary Election to voters covered under UDCAWA and allow them to access and mark a ballot, starting at 8 a.m. Mountain Time, on April 22nd, 2016, and will close at 8 p.m. on primary election day, June 7, 2016. The system will be available for the 2016 General Election starting at 8 a.m. Mountain Time on September 23 and will close at 8 p.m. on general election day, November 8, 2016.

If you are currently unregistered and you would like to register before the EAS opens for voting, or if you would like to update your voter registration, you can do so by clicking [this link](#), completing the form, saving it as a PDF and emailing it to the contact information provided for your county.

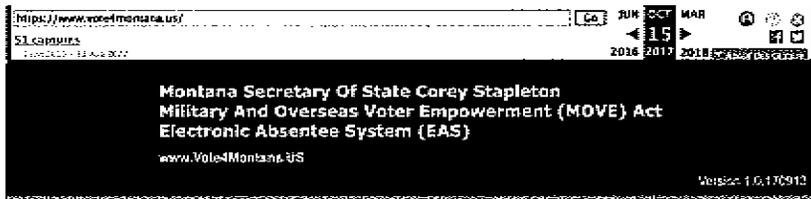
If you are unsure about, or you would like to verify your registration status, please visit [My Voter Page](#), or visit the Montana Secretary of State's website at sos.mt.gov.

December 2014
 Version 1.0.140830



February 2016
 Version 1.0.140830

Platform Screenshots



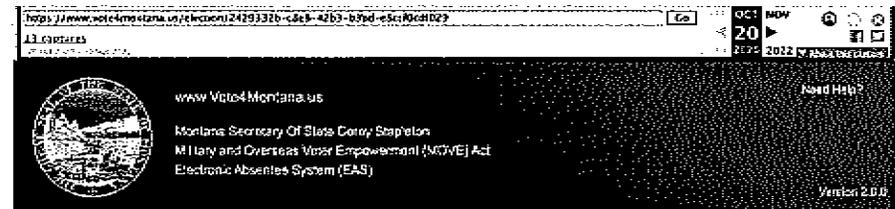
Thank you for your interest in the Montana Electronic Absentee System (EAS) for absent military and overseas citizen voters. The EAS will open to voters covered under UOCAVA for the 2017 Federal Special Election starting at 8:00 AM MDT on Monday, April 10th and will close at 8:00 PM MDT on election day, May 25, 2017.

If you are currently unregistered and would like to register before the EAS opens for voting, or if you would like to update your voter registration, you can do so by clicking [this link](#), completing the form, saving it as a PDF and emailing it to your county election office. A list of county election office contact information can be found [here](#).

If you are unsure about, or you would like to verify your registration status, please visit [My Voter Page](#), or visit the Montana Secretary of State's website at [sos.mt.gov](#).

You can track election results as they come in at: [electionresults.mt.gov](#). If you have any questions, please contact sos@elections.mt.gov.

Montana Secretary of State • P.O. Box 202801 • Helena, MT 59620-2801
 (406) 444-7911 or toll free at 1-888-684-6683 • sos@elections.mt.gov • Fax (406) 444-2023
[List of Montana County Election Offices](http://listof.mt/countyelectionoffices.htm)



[Request Ballot](#) [Mark Ballot](#) [Submit Ballot](#)

Thank you for your interest in Montana's Electronic Absentee System (EAS) for absent military and overseas voters. The EAS will open to voters covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) for the 2020 Federal General Election beginning at 8:00AM MDT on Friday September 18, 2020 and will close at 8:00PM MST on November 3, 2020.

If you are not registered to vote in Montana or need to update your voter registration before the EAS is available on September 18, 2020, click [here](#). Complete the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), save as a PDF and email to your local county election office. Montana County Election contact information can be found [here](#).

To verify your registration status visit sos.mt.gov.

You can track election results on election day at: <https://sos.mt.gov>. If you have any questions, please contact sos@elections.mt.gov or call 406-444-0538 or toll free 888-884-6683.

[1. Request a PIN](#) [2. Sign in and Vote](#)

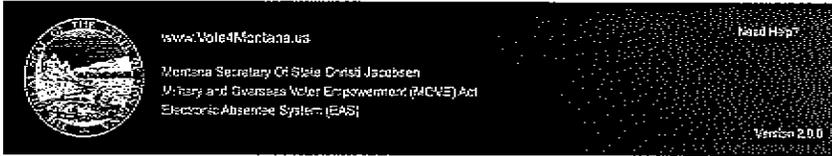
Waiting for web.config...

October 2017
Version 1.0.170913



October 2020
Version 2.0.0

Platform Screenshots



Request Ballot

Mark Ballot

Submit Ballot

Thank you for your interest in Montana's Electronic Absentee System (EAS) for absent military and overseas voters. The EAS will open to voters covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) for the 2022 General Election, beginning at 8:00AM MDT on Friday September 23, 2022 and will close at 8:00PM MST, on November 8, 2022.

If you are not registered to vote in Montana or need to update your voter registration before the EAS is available on September 23, 2022, click here. Complete the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), save as a PDF and email to your local county election office. Montana County Election contact information can be found here.

To verify your registration status visit <https://app.mt.gov/voters/eof/>.

You can track election results on election day at <https://sosmt.gov/>. If you have any questions, please contact sos.elections@service.mt.gov or call 406-444-5508 or toll free 888-884-8883.

1 Register and get your PIN 2 Sign In and Vote

FIND YOUR COUNTY MAIL ADDRESS EMAIL OR CALL

October 2022
Version 2.0.0

Platform Screenshots

crunchbase Search Crunchbase Advanced START FREE TRIAL Solutions

Votem Corp

Summary Financials People Technology Signals & News

Board Member and Advisor Profiles

Number of Board member and Advisor Profiles
8

Votem Corp has 8 board members and advisors, including Steve Babbage.

	Steve Babbage Advisor Sep 6, 2015		Michael Barrett Advisor Sep 24, 2015
	Peter Haynes Advisor Jul 17, 2015		Eugene Yu Advisor
	Alex Tapscott Advisor Mar 13, 2017		Ian Scott Advisor Feb 2018

Exhibit A - Votem Corp Crunchbase Board Member Profiles
<https://www.crunchbase.com/organization/votem-corp/people>

Collaborations

Montana's collaborative efforts will involve working closely with, and seeking ideas and input from the following entities:

- The Federal Voting Assistance Program
- The Montana National Guard
- Montana Army, Navy, Air Force, and Reserve units, through commanders and contact established during the 2010 Wizard process
- Montana's 56 county election administrators
- The Montana Election and Technology Advisory Council
- A consortium of states with the same ballot creation vendor, including North and South Dakota

Contractors

- Konnech Inc.
 - Eugene Yu
 - Laura Potter

Current and Pending Project Proposal Submissions

- Montana is not involved in any complimentary proposals, current or pending

Key Personnel

- Linda McCulloch, Montana Secretary of State
- Lisa Kimmert, Montana Deputy Secretary of State for Elections

Exhibit B - Montana Electronic Absentee System - 2012 Technical Proposal - MT SoS - Pg 18
https://www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Grants/Montana_application.pdf

can also be set to provide online registration.

Security is the most significant attribute of this platform. The system has passed penetration testing from two well-known U.S. test laboratories, follows the guidelines of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), scrubs the users' personal data, and was developed with the experiences designing it for use in Nevada, Michigan, New Jersey, and Montana, as well as with the Federal Voter Assistance Program (FVAP). In addition, the smart phone mobile app was tested by City of Detroit under the terms of a grant from the Federal Voter Assistance Program.

We are also looking for your participation to enhance the platform. Civic and voting support groups are encouraged to provide feedback. Casual users are invited to forward this app or the web site link to friends. Election administrators are invited to peruse the information posted for their jurisdictions and to post their data at no charge; contact us to be given access to your jurisdiction's specific service/support channel.

ABVote® in North America is administered by Votem, Inc., and by Konnech throughout the rest of the world.

Please contact us at info@konnech.com or give us a call at 1-800-381-1499 or 517-381-1830.

AWARD PROFILE Contract Summary



Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) Call # PIID 0003

Completed

Unlinked Award

Awarding Agency

Department of Defense (DOD)

Recipient

KONNECH' INC.

0111 OILMOS RD STE 100
DOD
Contract # HQ056610A0004
Contract # PIID 0003
Contract # PIID 0003

Related Awards

Parent Award Unique Key
CONT_IDW_HQ056610A0004_9700

Dates

- Start Date Jul 02, 2010
- Contract End Date Jun 31, 2011
- Potential End Date Jan 31, 2011

\$ Award Amounts

\$91,617

Obligated Amount

Description

THE EFFOR WILL PROVIDE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR AN ON-LINE WIZARD PROVIDING ABSENTEE VOTING CAPABILITY FOR THE STATE OF MONTANA.

Exhibit D - Blanket Purchase Agreement Awarded To Konnech for "online wizard providing voting capability for the State of Montana https://www.usaspending.gov/award/CONT_AWD_0003_9700_HQ056610A0004_9700

da.lacounty.gov/media/news/head-election-worker-management-comp...

News Releases & Advisories
Media Resources
Media FAQs
Open Letters

October 4, 2022: Head of Election Worker Management Company Arrested in Connection with Theft of Personal Data

Contact:
Media Relations Division
(213) 257-2000
Media@da.lacounty.gov

Media Relations

211 West Temple Street
Suite 1200
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: (213) 257-2000

News Releases

2022

January	February	March
April	May	June
July	August	September
October		

Years

2020	2021	2022
----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón announced today that an executive with a Michigan-based company responsible for the software used in managing Los Angeles County election poll workers has been arrested as part of an investigation into the possible theft of personal identifying information of those workers.

"I want to thank my prosecutors and investigators for their commitment to eliminating cyber intrusions against government entities and local businesses," District Attorney Gascón said. "Data breaches are an ongoing threat to our digital way of life. When we entrust a company to hold our confidential data, they must be willing and able to protect our personal identifying information from theft. Otherwise, we are all victims.

This investigation is concerned solely with the personal identifying information of election workers. In this case, the alleged conduct had no impact on the tabulation of votes and did not alter election results. But security in all aspects of any election is essential so that we all have full faith in the integrity of the election process."

Earlier today, Konnech Corporation Chief Executive Officer Eugene Yu was taken into custody on suspicion of theft of personal identifying information by investigators from the District Attorney's Office Bureau of Investigation with assistance from the Meridian Township Police Department in Michigan. In addition, hard drives and other digital evidence were seized by LADA investigators.

The District Attorney's Office is seeking Yu's extradition to Los Angeles.

Konnech distributes and sells its proprietary PollChief software, which is an election worker management system that was utilized by the county in the last California election. The software assists with poll worker assignments, communications and payroll. PollChief requires that workers submit personal identifying information, which is retained by the Konnech.

Under its \$2.9 million, five-year contract with the county, Konnech was supposed to securely maintain the data and that only United States citizens and permanent residents have access to it.

District Attorney investigators found that in contradiction to the contract, information was stored on servers in the People's Republic of China.

The East Lansing Police Department and Ingham County Sheriff's Office in Michigan also assisted in the investigation.

Exhibit E - Los Angeles County District Attorney Press Release - October 4
<https://da.lacounty.gov/media/news/head-election-worker-management-company-arrested-connection-theft-personal-data>

May 5, 2022

Dear AG Knudsen:

First of all, thank you for your response to my request for clarification on a matter in early April. Your comments were very helpful.

The reason for this letter is to receive clarification on a matter related to the 4/4/2022 letter from your office. It is my understanding that if a lawsuit were to be brought against the Secretary of State's office, concerning matters of lack of oversight over voting on tribal trust or tribal member-owned land on reservations, your office, rightly, would be required to defend her office. If interested legislators and, very likely, private citizens, were to bring a suit against elections officials in specified counties (Bighorn being chief among them), is that a matter on which your office could represent the plaintiffs (legislators/citizens)?

Our objective is not to create additional burdens upon the SOS office, nor upon yours. However, the inability of the SOS to fulfill the constitutional duties of her office, because of the lack of oversight over elections held on tribal lands on the Crow reservation, whether on tribally or enrolled tribal member-owned lands, creates a situation where tribal voters are not subject to the same election practices and Montana laws to which the rest of the voters in Montana are held. That, I believe, is a fundamental flaw (as well as a violation of the 14th amendment) in need of immediate correction.

Any insight your office might provide to me in this regard would be gratefully received.

Respectfully,

Rep. Brad Tschida – HD 97



MONTANA STATE SENATE

Senator Theresa Manzella
Senate District 33

Theresa Manzella
1001 North 17th Street
Helena, MT 59601
KONNECH CORPORATION
1001 North 17th Street
Helena, MT

Theresa Manzella
1001 North 17th Street
Helena, MT 59601
1001 North 17th Street
Helena, Montana 59601
thmanzella@mt.gov
thmanzella@senate.mt.gov
thmanzella@montana.gov

October 13, 2022

Attorney General Austin Knudsen
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
215 N Sanders Third Floor
PO Box 201401
Helena, MT 59620-1401

Dear Attorney General Knudsen:

Montana voting software that allows military, overseas citizens, and disabled persons to request, mark, and submit their ballot online was developed by Konnech Corporation, an elections software company whose CEO, Eugene Yu, was arrested recently by the Los Angeles County District Attorney in connection with election worker data stored on servers in the People's Republic of China. One of our vital roles as legislators is protecting the security and integrity of our elections. This indictment and the continued use of software from Konnech has grave implications for the security of poll workers and elections in Montana. This includes anyone closely associated with Konnech, or anyone using Konnech developed technology and systems, which is referenced in our attached research materials. Your own investigation may also identify additional entities or areas of concern. We are asking your office to immediately open up an investigation if it hasn't already done so. Given the proximity to the ongoing 2022 general election, we also respectfully ask that you promptly notify the Montana Secretary of State and each County Attorney in Montana that the software should not be used until the investigation is completed.

Through news reports we learned that Konnech distributes and sells its proprietary PollChief software, which is an election worker management system that was utilized by Los Angeles County in the last California election and this year's primary election. The software assists with poll worker assignments, communications and payroll. PollChief requires that workers submit personal identifying information, which is retained by Konnech, Inc. Many of these news reports indicate governments around the country are taking steps to cancel contracts and disassociate themselves from Konnech. But given Konnech long history of election related software development and its relationship with our state going back to at least 2010, we believe a full investigation by your office is warranted because problems may be more extensive than the mere surface indicates. This is demonstrated more acutely in the information we have attached.

Under its multi-million dollar, five-year contract with LA County, Konnech was supposed to securely maintain the data and that only United States citizens and permanent residents have access to it. LA District Attorney investigators found that in contradiction to the contract, information was stored on servers in the People's Republic of China.

In the LA County DA's press release the agency noted that the PollChief software from Konnech was the main conduit for the private election worker data that was transferred to servers in China. This is disturbing in light of the fact that the PollChief [website](#) lists Montana as one of the customers of the company. Additional information we have obtained, shows the McCollough Administration actually entered into software development contracts with this company that were specifically developed for Montana and integrated into our electoral system. Whether this is in fact the case, and whether that software, or something like is, is still in operation, is a critical component of your inquiry if this indeed occurred.

Although the Los Angeles indictment against Konnech, Inc. CEO, Eugene Yu, has not been released; from what we have been able to ascertain, it pertains to an investigation "into the possible theft of personal identifying information" of election poll workers in Los Angeles County. Eugen Yu was arrested in Michigan, and charged with being a fugitive of justice.

In addition to constitutional protections, Montana has similar statutes to California (MCA Identity Theft: 30-14-1704 "Computer Security Breach" and 45-6-332 "Theft of Identity") and your office should look into the matter to see if Montana should also bring forward charges to maintain Montana's prosecutorial ability to file suit against Eugene Yu and Konnech, Inc. In addition to your general authority, our reading of 30-14-1712(3), gives you specific authority to bring criminal action or seek court injunctions, when a violation is reported.

As mentioned, to our knowledge and per the attached material, Konnech has had at least one contract and a direct connection with the State Montana as far back as 2010, according to a [Blanket Purchase Agreement](#) funded by the Department of Defense. The award paid \$91,617 to Konnech, Inc. for "RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR AN ON-LINE WIZARD PROVIDING ABSENTEE VOTING CAPABILITY FOR THE STATE OF MONTANA."

Specific to the MT SOS McCulloch administration's initial involving Montana with Konnech, to our knowledge this occurred in 2012, when then Montana Secretary of State Linda McCulloch submitted a technical proposal [grant application](#) to the Federal Voting Assistance Program in which she referenced the contract with Konnech for the development of the state's Electronic Voting Support Wizard for UOCAVA voters.

In 2010, the Montana Secretary of State was one of 17 state election officials that participated in the Federal Voting Assistance Program's Electronic Voting Support Wizard (EVSU) project, and was one of a handful of states that included all local jurisdictions in the program. The Secretary of State worked with the vendor who was the successful bidder for the project for Montana, Konnech Inc., to develop Montana's EVSU; a model that was calculated by FVAP to have the highest usage rate among participating states.

Upon hearing the news of the arrest of Konnech's CEO, to their credit, Fairfax County, VA, who also uses Konnech Software, has ceased the use of election software by Konnech. They felt it

was the right thing to do to avoid the risk of personal identifiable information being used for nefarious purposes. This doesn't eliminate any risk, but it does limit any further risk. As previously mentioned, other government entities are conducting similar reviews or canceling contracts outright.

Montana should follow suit and stop the use of all Konnech software and the Attorney General's Office should move to immediately investigate the use of Konnech in the state of Montana to ensure it mitigates any risks associated with the use of the software and data being stored by the company. Montana citizens also have a right to participate in government and government operations. Many chose to do this during election time to be part of the process. They should not do so in fear of having their personal private information disclosed; to foreign governments, especially those that are abjectly opposed to our interests and our way of life.

Our own research also indicates that Konnech is using The Great Seal of the State of Montana as part of its commercial promotions and advertising. We are curious whether they were given permission to do so when former SOS McCulloch entered into a relationship with them or at anytime subsequent to those events. If not, we believe such use is improper and prohibited.

As you are aware, Montana protects its elections. As legislators we are specifically tasked with doing that. Montana also has the strongest privacy protection laws in the country. Privacy protection is a vital component of our state constitution. Given our respective responsibilities and authorities to protect these interests, we sincerely hope we can work with you to promptly address these critical issues.

We thank you ahead of time for your attention to this matter and we look forward to hearing back from you with regard to actions you plan to take to safeguard the citizens of Montana and our upcoming general elections.

Sincerely,

Sen. Theresa Manzella – SD44

Rep. Brad Tschida – HD97

Rep. Bob Phalen – HD36

Rep. Jerry Schillinger – HD37

Rep. Paul Fielder – HD13

Rep. Steven Galloway – HD24

Rep. Steve Gunderson – HD1

Attachment



MONTANA STATE SENATE

Senator Theresa Marrella
Senate District 44

OFFICE OF SENATOR
THERESA MARRELLA
SENATE DISTRICT 44
HELENA, MONTANA 59601
PHONE: 406-444-4111
WWW.MTSENATE.GOV

SENATOR THERESA MARRELLA
1000 EAST WYOMING STREET
HELENA, MONTANA 59601
PHONE: 406-444-4111
THERESA.MARRELLA@MTSENATE.GOV
THERESA@THERESAMARRELLA.COM

October 13, 2022

Attorney General Austin Knudsen
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
215 N Sanders Third Floor
PO Box 201401
Helena, MT 59620-1401

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In 2010, the Montana Secretary of State was one of 17 state election officials that participated in the Federal Voting Assistance Program's Electronic Voting Support Wizard (EVSZ) project, and was one of a handful of states that included all local jurisdictions in the program. The Secretary of State worked with the vendor who was the successful bidder for the project for Montana, Konnech Inc., to develop Montana's EVSZ; a model that was calculated by FVAP to have the highest usage rate among participating states.

Upon hearing the news of the arrest of Konnech's CEO, to their credit, Fairfax County, VA, who also uses Konnech Software, has ceased the use of election software by Konnech. They felt it

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Rep. Bob Phalen – HD36

Rep. Jerry Schillinger – HD37

Rep. Paul Fielder – HD13

Rep. Steven Galloway – HD24

Rep. Steve Gunderson – HD1

Attachment

December 27, 2021

Austin Knudsen – Attorney General
215 N. Sanders St.
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Attorney General Knudsen:

As you are aware, I, along with many other regular citizens in the State of Montana, have been working since the fall of 2020 to resolve issues concerning irregularities in the 2020 general election in Montana. Several of us met on April 6, 2021, with Secretary of State, Christi Jacobsen, and Elections Director, Dana Corson, to present our evidence of voting irregularities in the November 2020 Missoula County election results, totaling approximately 7% of the votes. We have had no reply to the evidence we presented at that meeting, though the following week the Secretary of State issued the attached undated letter regarding plans for future election integrity actions addressed to “Dear Montana” in which she commented that “Montana is a model for the country” and “Montana already sets the standard across the country.” Legislators across the Montana are seeing election anomalies in their districts that underscore the statement in the Secretary’s letter, albeit perhaps not in the way she intended, given the questions about the November 2020 election being raised in most, if not all, of the other states.

As clearly delineated in Art. IV, Sec. III of the Montana Constitution, members of the Montana Legislature “shall insure the purity of elections and guard against abuses of the electoral process.” One step to fulfill that obligation is to look at the list of the people who voted in the November 2020 election.

In August 2021, I submitted a request to Mr. Corson, with fully detailed correspondence which I can provide. I received a file that was labeled “Voter Histories November 4, 2020” but, in fact, did not contain the names of voters from the day before, but only those whose most recent voting history was from the Spring 2020 Primary Election.

I pressed Mr. Corson for the data that I requested and for which I paid \$1,000.00. His terse response to me was:

“Your request for the voter registration rolls as of November 4, 2020 was fulfilled on August 24, 2021 [emphasis added]

I did not request “voter registration rolls” from Mr. Corson. I requested the “Statewide Voter List” as of the specified date, November 4, 2020. It appears from the correspondence with Mr. Corson, that the state of Montana does not have the list of the names of those who voted on November 3, 2020, though the election results were published around 10:00 pm on November 3.

Based on the error committed on Mr. Corson’s part in delivering an incorrectly labeled file, and his refusal to provide the information I requested, it appears that the executive branch is obstructing me, as a member of the Legislative Branch, from fulfilling my Constitutional duties, as enumerated in Art. IV, Sec. III. Further, the Attorney General of Montana “helps to ensure the integrity of the elections in our state by matching information in the Montana statewide voter registration list with information in the motor vehicle licensing database and the United States Social Security database, as outlined in both 42 U.S.C. 15483 and MCA 13-2-107(3)(a) & (b).”

Without knowing who voted in the 2020 Federal General Election in Montana, it is impossible for the Legislature to “insure the purity of elections and guard against abuses of the electoral process.”

With that background in mind, I am requesting that you help resolve this Constitutional issue quickly and ensure that I am provided with an accurate list of people who voted in Montana on November 3, 2020. As citizens become aware that this information is not available, and that the time before the expiration of the federal deadline for preservation of election evidence approaches, their confidence in the Montana state government itself will further erode.

Respectfully,

Rep. Brad Tschida

Rep. Brad Tschida – HD-97 Missoula

Montana Electronic Absentee System (EAS) Konnech History

A review of documentation and current events related to the implementation timeline, development evolution, and organizational structure of Montana's UOCAVA online voting system; software developed in collaboration with voting software company Konnech Inc and CEO Eugene Yu.

Research prepared October 11, 2022 by:

Roy McKenzie
Western Montana News
rov@westernmt.news

Chris Kortlander
Montana Broadcasting Radio Group LLC
chris@historicalrarities.com



CHRISTI JACOBSEN

MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE

Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act
Electronic Absentee System (EAS)

2022 Montana Secretary of State EAS Overview

What is the Montana Electronic Absentee System (EAS)?

THE UNIFORMED AND OVERSEAS CITIZENS ABSENTEE VOTING ACT (UOCAVA)

UOCAVA created special provisions to make registering to vote, obtaining, returning, and tracking absentee ballots easier for members of the armed forces, their families and overseas U.S. citizens who are absent from their Montana voting residence.

ELECTRONIC ABSENTEE SYSTEM (EAS)

The EAS provides Montana voters covered under UOCAVA with a one-stop online service to seamlessly prepare voter registration materials and mark their ballot.

UOCAVA Voters

Montana resident
their place of resic

- Member of th
- Spouse or dep
- U.S. citizen re

AVAILABILITY

Montana resident

- Access the EAS from either:

- The Secretary of State's website: <https://sosmt.gov/elections/military-overseas/>
- The EAS website: <https://www.Vote4Montana.us>

- Complete the affirmation and user information.

- Once approved, an email will be sent to confirm your information and provide a pin # to access your ballot.

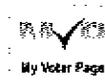
- Follow the instructions for each step of the online service.

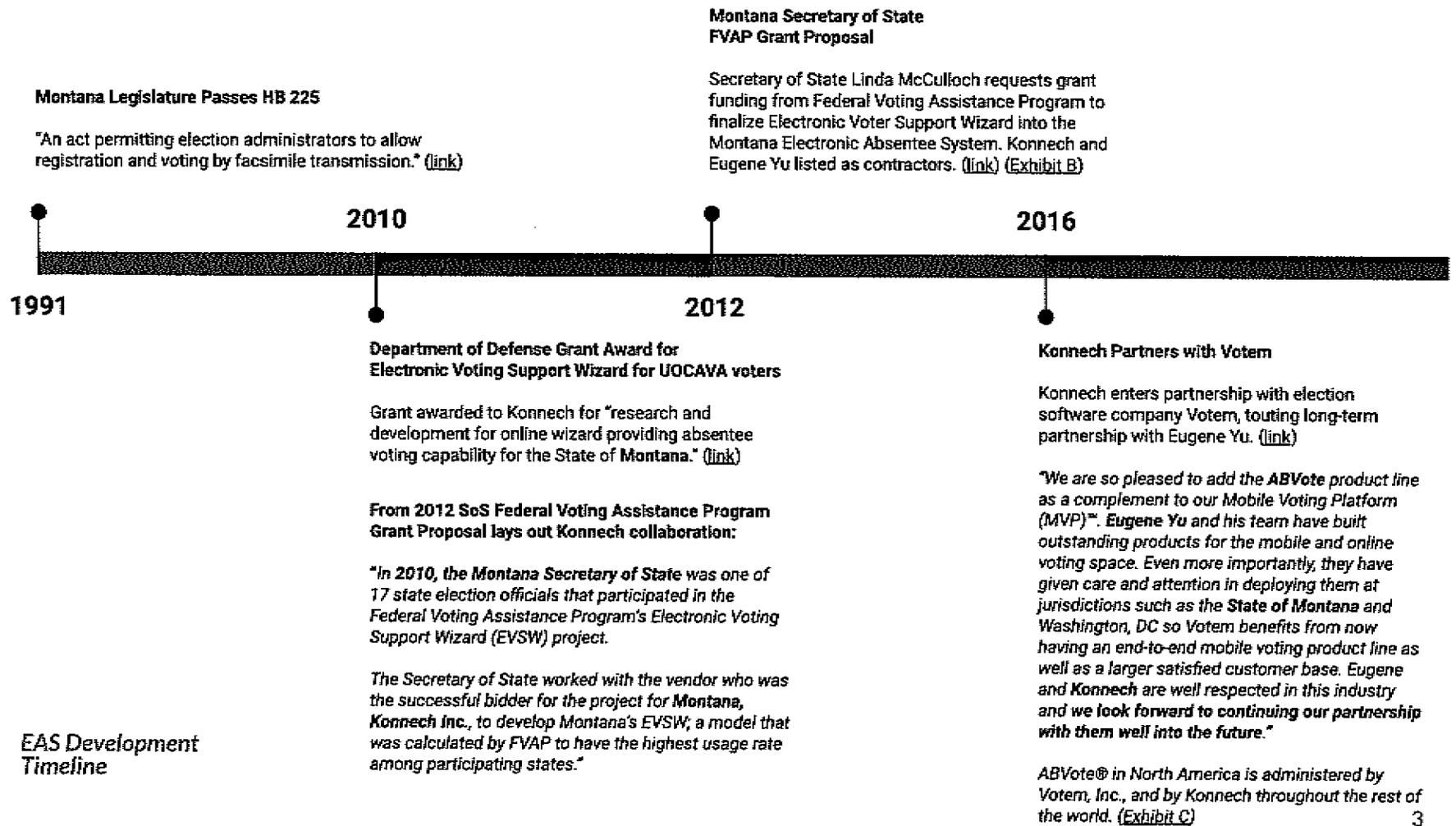
Step 2: Mark Ballot

- Mark your ballot selections.
- Review and confirm your ballot selections.

Step 3: Submit Ballot

- Select your ballot submission method:
- Depending on the return method you selected, save or print your marked ballot and related materials.
 - If returning by email, you must first save as a PDF, then attach to an email. Ensure your identification number (MT driver's license number OR last four of social security number) or digital signature is used in lieu of signature are included on the cover sheet.
 - If returning by fax or mail, ensure that your cover sheet includes your signature.
- Return your ballot and supporting documents to your Montana county election office.
- Track your ballot online at My Voter Page or contact your Montana county election office.





LA District Attorney Arrests Eugene Yu

Eugene Yu, CEO of Konnech, Inc., is arrested by Los Angeles District Attorney George Gascon in connection with poll worker data stored on servers in the People's Republic of China. ([link](#)) ([Exhibit E](#))

Oct 6 2022

Oct 4 2022

Detroit, Michigan Halts Use of Konnech Software

"Detroit Clerk Janice Winfrey says her office has decided to stop using a Michigan-based election software vendor that's facing a high-profile data breach allegation involving poll worker information." ([link](#))

Fairfax, Virginia Halts Use of Konnech Software

Since learning about the arrest, the Fairfax County Office of Elections has halted using Konnech's PollChief election officer management software, Eric Spicer, the director and general registrar of the county's Office of Elections, said in an emailed statement to The Epoch Times on Oct. 6." ([link](#))

EAS Development
Timeline

Montana Electronic Absentee System

2012 Technical Proposal
Montana Secretary of State

CFDA: 32.217

BAA: HQ0034-FVAP-11-BAA-008H

CAGE Code: [REDACTED]

DUNS: [REDACTED]

Montana Secretary of State, Linda McCulloch

Administrative Contact: Lisa Kimmel PO Box 26289 Helena, Montana 59626 P: (406) 441-1174 F: (406) 441-2023	Technical Contact: Justin Woodland Casey Sp PO Box 20280 Helena, Montana 59620 jcasey@montana.gov P: (406) 444-2922 F: (406) 444-2023
--	--

Signature: [REDACTED] 13. 4. 2013
Name: Lisa Kimmel

Period of Performance: July-1, 2011 – December 31, 2010

04 January 2012 through 30 November

Executive Summary

Access to voting for Montana's absent military citizens, their families, and overseas citizens long been a priority for the Montana Secretary of State. Montana has been at the forefront providing electronic voting capabilities for UOCAVA voters for several decades. Past legislation authorizing the use of electronic means for voting in 1992, Montana was one of first states to address the challenges for voters covered under UOCAVA.

In 2010, the Montana Secretary of State was one of 17 state election officials that participate the Federal Voting Assistance Program's Electronic Voting Support Wizard (EVSU) grant and was one of a handful of states that included all local jurisdictions in the program. Secretary of State worked with the vendor who was the successful bidder for the project Montana, Kometech Inc., to develop Montana's EVSUA; a model that was calculated by FVA have the highest usage rate among participating states.

Planning for the 2012 election cycle, Montana has the advantage of being able to analyze successes and failures of the 2010 program, and to build a better product for even better results for 2012.

The Secretary of State has been working since completion of the 2010 general election strengthen the electronic ballot marking tool to address the following main areas:

- Security of the elector's provided personal identification number
- Seamless access to and preparation of voter registration materials
- Accurate ballot access for new/updated registrants
- Electronic ballot access for primary election as well as general election
- Defused tracking of types of users for utilization in the national research effort
- Outreach to UOCAVA voters regarding availability of services, including the elector absentee system

These efforts will not only benefit absent military voters, their families and overseas citizens will also benefit the national research effort by providing more detailed data on each type user, as well as data on the trend for voter registration and successful ballot UOCAVA voters.

Montana's tradition of high voter participation for UOCAVA voters, combined outreach and access efforts during the 2012 election cycle made possible with FVAP grant program, will help Montana to again be at the forefront for satisfaction for all eligible UOCAVA voters. A voter who utilized Montana's ii best, summing up the affect the Wizard had on his right to vote.

"Hi Diane,
The voting system itself was easy to use and greatly appreciated. Last time I was even try to vote, with this system I will experience..... I would recommend it for absentee ballot. Thankyou, Joseph"

TECHNICAL APPROACH

Montana's technical approach is detailed below and includes descriptions of the goals of the Secretary of State that meet the Federal Voting Assistance Program's grant objectives to assist UOCAVA voters.

Goals and Objectives

Goal No. 1

To improve the UOCAVA voter experience in Montana through the development of a successful, sustainable and affordable Electronic Absentee System (EAS). This goal was partially met in 2010 with the Ballot Marking Wizard established in conjunction with the FVAP and Kometech, Inc. Enhancements to the 2010 service will further improve those voting opportunities.

- **Successful:** Montana's 2010 absentee service was calculated by FVAP to have the highest usage rate among participating states. Montana can build on that success by implementing the enhancements described in this proposal.
- **Sustainable:** Montana's Electronic Absentee Service will be sustainable because of the Montana Secretary of State's commitment to researching and providing new and innovative approaches to making voting more efficient and accessible for voters covered under UOCAVA. Sustainability funding will be provided by remaining funds in Montana's Help America Vote Act fund, office funds, and Federal Voting Assistance Grant funds.
- **Affordable:** Montana plans to partner with Kometech, Inc. to build the 2010 service, utilizing a 2010 FVAP grant opportunity. Between Kometech, Inc. and the Montana Secretary of State, resources in the form of personnel and time have been allocated to developing the necessary enhancements to the service for 2012. Technology that was developed for another service, the Google Voting Information Project is used to search a voter with the correct precinct specific ballot, drastically reducing development costs. Affordability for 2012 is

Collaborations

Montana's collaborative efforts will involve working closely with, and seeking ideas and input from the following entities:

- The Federal Voting Assistance Program
- The Montana National Guard
- Montana Army, Navy, Air Force, and Reserve units, through commanders and contact established during the 2010 Wizard process
- Montana's 56 county election administrators
- The Montana Election and Technology Advisory Council
- A consortium of states with the same ballot creation vendor, including North and South Dakota

Contractors

- Kometech Inc.
 - o Eugene Yu
 - o Laura Polter

Current and Pending Project Proposal Submissions

- Montana is not involved in any complementary proposals, current or pending

Montana Electronic Absentee System
2012 Technical Proposal Montana Secretary of State.
Federal Voting Assistance Program grant application.
https://www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Grants/Montana_application.pdf

Department of Defense Grant

From Jul. 2010 to Jan. 2011, the **Department of Defense** granted **Konnech** with a Blanket Purchase Agreement award of \$91,617 (exhibit D) to “provide research and development for an online wizard providing absentee voting capability for the **State of Montana.**”

*EAS Development
Evolution*

Montana Electronic Voting Support Wizard (EVSZ)

Montana Electronic Voting Support Wizard implemented in 2010 for UOCAVA voting “in conjunction with FVAP and **Konnech, Inc.**” as noted in 2012 FVAP grant proposal from **Montana Secretary of State Linda McCulloch.**

Montana SoS FVAP Grant Application

In 2012, **Montana Secretary of State Linda McCulloch** requests Federal Voting Assistance Program grant to “improve the UOCAVA voter experience in Montana through the development of a successful, sustainable and affordable **Electronic Absentee System (EAS).**”

Montana Electronic Absentee System (EAS)

Since at least 2013, the **Montana EAS** has been active, according to Internet Archive which recorded snapshots of portal (vote4montana.us).

████████████████████

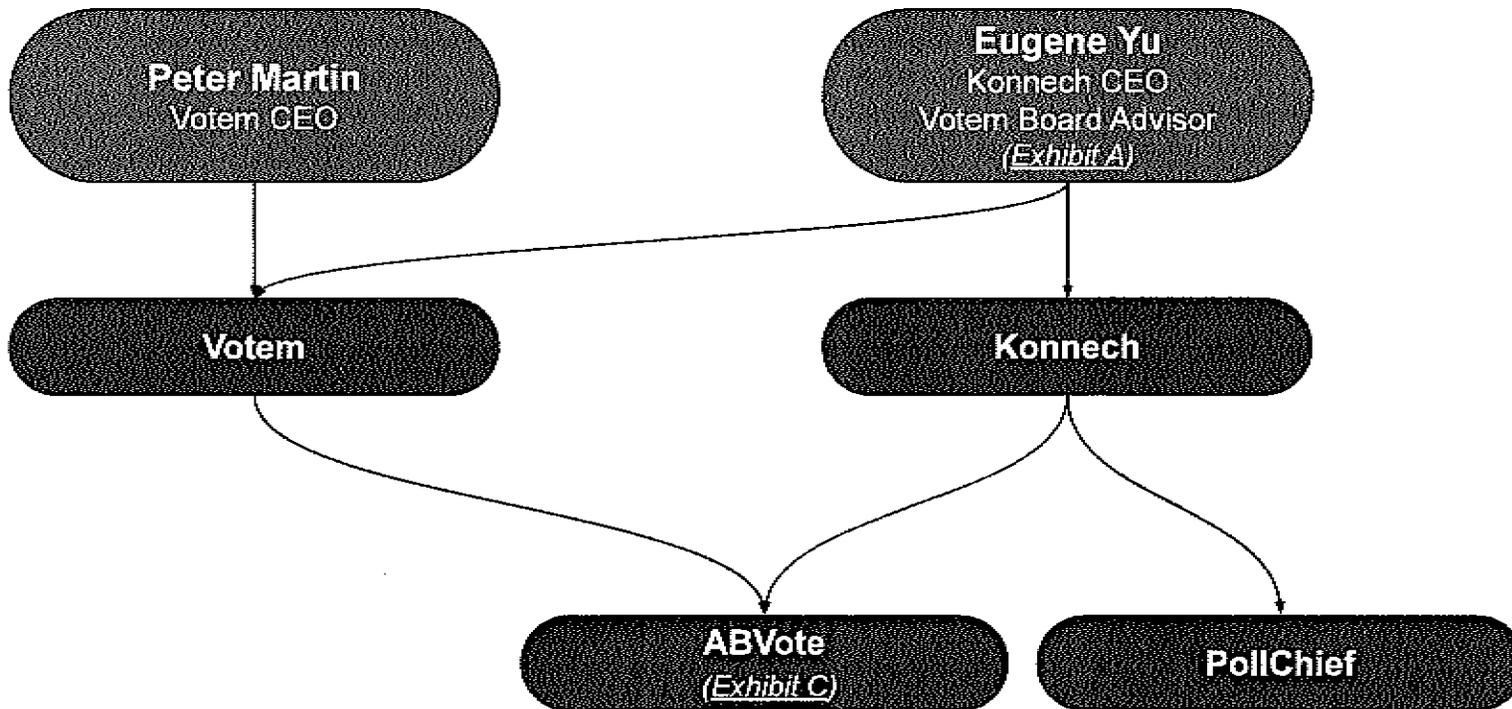
Konnech and Votem Partnership

In February 2016, Votem entered into a partnership with Konnech for access to their ABVote software. The software was was deployed prior to 2016 in Montana for use as the Montana Electronic Absentee System.

Pete Martin, CEO of Votem, stated, "We are so pleased to add the ABVote product line as a complement to our Mobile Voting Platform (MVP)". Eugene Yu and his team have built outstanding products for the mobile and online voting space. Even more importantly, they have given care and attention in deploying them at jurisdictions such as the State of Montana and Washington, DC so Votem benefits from now having an end-to-end mobile voting product line as well as a larger satisfied customer base. Eugene and Konnech are well respected in this industry and we look forward to continuing our partnership with them well into the future."

Eugene Yu, CEO of Konnech, remarked, "Votem has quickly become a leader in the online voting market with a number of exciting accomplishments including the completion of their Global Innovation Challenge which brought together some of the best minds in the world to develop their secure online voting platform. Konnech is very happy to become a long-term partner of Votem so we can contribute our industry experience to speed up the implementation of new voting technologies, and enjoy mutual success in what is both a challenging and rewarding business."

Votem Announces Acquisition of Mobile Voting Business. February 15, 2016

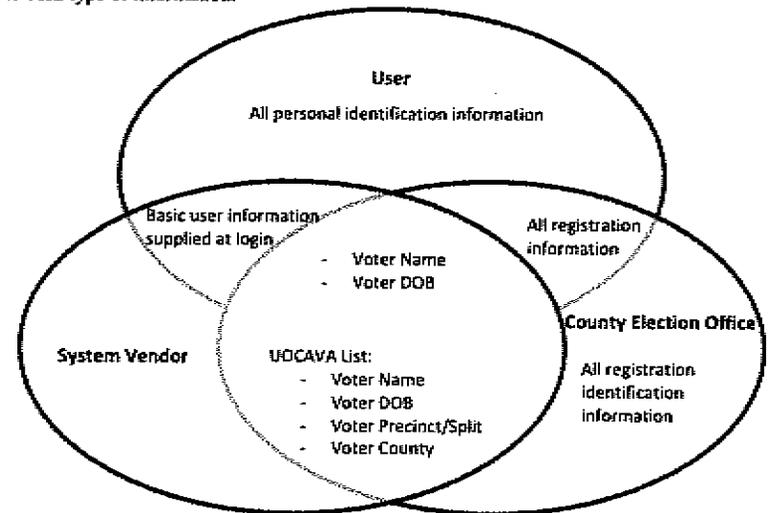


*Konnech and Votem
Relationship*

Personal Identification Information

The personal identification information of UOCAVA and disabled persons using the Montana Electronic Absentee System is accessible to Konnech including: login information, name, DOB, precinct, county,

The following diagram displays the correlation between personal information and the party with access to each type of information.



Source: Montana FVAP Grant Proposal (Page 5)

Konnech Chinese Counterpart

Jinhua Hongzheng Technology Co., Ltd is chinese company that "focuses on providing software products and overall solutions related to election, voting and voting for domestic government organs at all levels, CPPCC [Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference]," according to an [announcement](#) for the company on Weibo, the Chinese version of Twitter.

In the announcement, the company's "predecessor" was named as "Konnech., Ltd." described as a company founded in 2005 that does "software offshoring services for more than a decade, listing the State of Montana as a client.

Page machine translated to English

金华鸿正科技有限公司公告

Jin Huabong is pursuing a corporate culture of "caring, pragmatism and innovation". Founded in November 2005, its predecessor, Konnech., Ltd. is a software company that has been engaged in software offshoring services for more than a decade as a partner of Microsoft for 10 years. r Partner and Apple's six-year-old iOS Enterprise Developer have multi-software copyright and product invention patents.

Overseas customers served more than 20 government customers in North America, including Washington, D.C., and Edmonton, Canada.

美国 华盛顿特区	美国弗吉尼亚州 劳登谷郡	美国密歇根州 底特律市	美国密苏里州 圣路易斯郡	EDMONTON 加拿大阿尔伯塔省 埃德蒙顿市
美国 蒙大拿州	美国弗吉尼亚州 威廉王子郡	美国密苏里州 圣查尔斯郡	美国佛罗里达州 希尔斯伯勒郡	加拿大萨斯喀彻旺省 里贾纳市

Source: Jinhua Hongzheng Technology Co., Ltd. Weibo. April 14, 2016
<https://archive.ph/8xIqe>

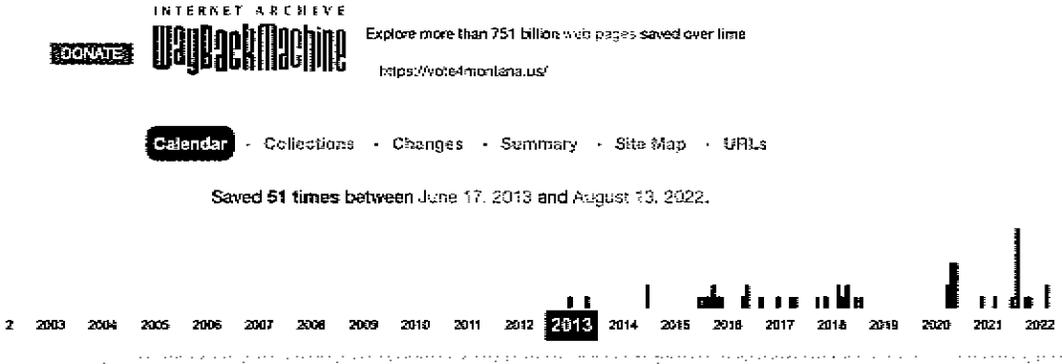


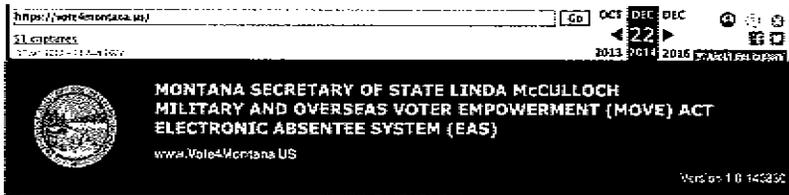
The Seal of the State of Montana on Chinese election software company Jinhua Hongzheng Technology Co., Ltd. website.

659220412400

Montana EAS Portal

The Montana EAS platform portal has been in use since at least 2013, according to Internet Archive snapshots. The portal's software version has moved sequentially from 1.0.x to 2.0.0 since at least December 14, 2014 to October 10, 2022.





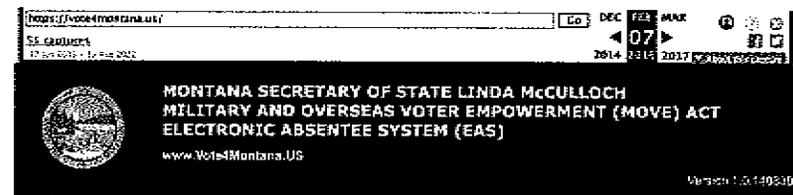
Polls in Montana have now closed.

If you are currently unregistered, and would like to register and request absentee ballots for future elections, please fill out an FPCA and submit it to your county election office. Register and request an absentee ballot for the next election by clicking [HERE](#).

You can track election results as they come in at: <http://electionresults.sos.mt.gov>

Thank you for visiting the Montana Electronic Absentee System.

Montana Secretary of State - P.O. Box 202801 - Helena, MT 59620-2801
 (406) 444-9685 or toll free at 1-800-384-3683 • secretary@state.mt.gov • Fax (406) 444-2023
<http://www.mt.gov> • <http://www.mt.gov/elections>



Thank for your interest in the Montana Electronic Absentee System (EAS) for absent military and overseas citizen voters. The EAS will open for the 2016 Primary Election to voters covered under UDCA/A and allow them to access and mark a ballot, starting at 8 a.m. Mountain Time, on April 22nd, 2016, and will close at 8 p.m. on primary election day, June 7, 2016. The system will be available for the 2016 General Election starting at 8 a.m. Mountain Time on September 23 and will close at 8 p.m. on general election day, November 8, 2016.

If you are currently unregistered and you would like to register before the EAS opens for voting, or if you would like to update your voter registration, you can do so by clicking this [link](#), completing the form, saving it as a PDF and emailing it to the contact information provided for your county.

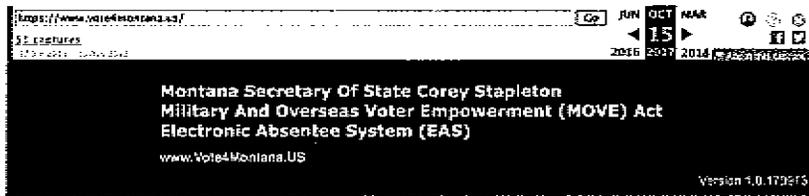
If you are unsure about, or you would like to verify your registration status, please visit My Voter Page, or visit the Montana Secretary of State's website at eas.mt.gov.

December 2014
 Version 1.0.140830



February 2016
 Version 1.0.140830

Platform Screenshots



Thank you for your interest in the Montana Electronic Absentee System (EAS) for absent military and overseas citizen voters. The EAS will open to voters covered under UOCAVA for the 2017 Federal Special Election starting at 8:00 AM MDT on Monday, April 10th and will close at 8:00 PM MDT on election day, May 25, 2017.

If you are currently unregistered and would like to register before the EAS opens for voting, or if you would like to update your voter registration, you can do so by clicking this [link](#), completing the form, saving it as a PDF and emailing it to your county election office. A list of county election office contact information can be found [here](#).

If you are unsure about, or you would like to verify your registration status, please visit [My Vote Page](#), or visit the Montana Secretary of State's website at [sos.mt.gov](#).

You can track election results as they come in at [electionresults.sos.mt.gov](#). If you have any questions, please contact soselections@mt.gov

Montana Secretary of State • P.O. Box 202801 • Helena, MT 59620-2801
 (406) 444-7911 or toll free at 1-888-884-8863 • sosinfo@sos.mt.gov • Fax (406) 444-2023
 Part of Montana County Election Administration

October 2017
 Version 1.0.170913



October 2020
 Version 2.0.0

Platform Screenshots



- Request Ballot
- Track Ballot
- Submit Ballot

Thank you for your interest in Montana's Electronic Absentee System (EAS) for absent military and overseas voters. The EAS will open to voters covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) for the 2020 Federal General Election beginning at 8:00AM MDT on Friday September 18, 2020 and will close at 8:00PM MST, on November 3, 2020.

If you are not registered to vote in Montana or need to update your voter registration before the EAS is available on September 18, 2020, click [here](#). Complete the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), save as a PDF and email to your local county election office. Montana County Election contact information can be found [here](#).

To verify your registration status visit sos.mt.gov.

You can track election results on election day at <https://sos.mt.gov>. If you have any questions, please contact soselectionshelp@service.mt.gov or call 406-444-8608 or toll free 888-884-8665.

1. Request a PIN
2. Sign In and Vote

Waiting for web.archive.org...



-  Request Ballot
-  Mark Ballot
-  Submit Ballot

Thank you for your interest in Montana's Electronic Absentee System (EAS) for absent military and overseas voters. The EAS will open to voters covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UCAVIA) for the 2022 General Election beginning at 8:00AM MDT on Friday September 23, 2022 and will close at 8:00PM MST, on November 8, 2022.

If you are not registered to vote in Montana or need to update your voter registration before the EAS is available on September 23, 2022, click here. Complete the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), save as a PDF and email to your local county election office. Montana County Election contact information can be found here.

To verify your registration status visit <https://sos.mt.gov/VoterInfo/>

You can track election results on election day at: <https://sos.mt.gov>. If you have any questions, please contact sas@electionshelp@services.mt.gov or call 406-444-9608 or toll free 855-684-2683.

- 1. Register and get your PIN
- 2. Sign In and Vote

FIND YOUR COUNTY	MAIL ADDRESS	EMAIL OR CALL

October 2022 Version 2.0.0

Platform Screenshots

crunchbase Search Crunchbase Advanced START FREE TRIAL Solutions

Votem Corp

Summary Financials People Technology Signals & News

Board Member and Advisor Profiles

Number of Board Member and Advisor Profiles
8

Votem Corp has 8 board members and advisors, including Steve Babbage.

	Steve Babbage Advisor Sep 6, 2015		Michael Barrett Advisor Sep 24, 2015
	Peter Haynes Advisor Jul 17, 2015		Eugene Yu Advisor
	Alex Tapscott Advisor Mar 13, 2017		Ian Sparrowe Advisor Feb 2018

Exhibit A - Votem Corp Crunchbase Board Member Profiles
<https://www.crunchbase.com/organization/votem-corp/people>

Collaborations

Montana's collaborative efforts will involve working closely with, and seeking ideas and input from the following entities:

- The Federal Voting Assistance Program
- The Montana National Guard
- Montana Army, Navy, Air Force, and Reserve units, through commanders and contact established during the 2010 Wizard process
- Montana's 56 county election administrators
- The Montana Election and Technology Advisory Council
- A consortium of states with the same ballot creation vendor, including North and South Dakota

Contractors

- Konnech Inc.
 - Eugene Yu
 - Laura Poner

Current and Pending Project Proposal Submissions

- Montana is not involved in any complimentary proposals, current or pending

Key Personnel

- Linda McCulloch, Montana Secretary of State
- Lisa Kimmet, Montana Deputy Secretary of State for Elections

Exhibit B - Montana Electronic Absentee System - 2012 Technical Proposal - MT SoS - Pg 18
https://www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Grants/Montana_application.pdf

can also be set to provide online registration.

Security is the most significant attribute of this platform. The system has passed penetration testing from two well-known U.S. test laboratories, follows the guidelines of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), scrubs the users' personal data, and was developed with the experiences designing it for use in Nevada, Michigan, New Jersey, and Montana, as well as with the Federal Voter Assistance Program (FVAP). In addition, the smart phone mobile app was tested by City of Detroit under the terms of a grant from the Federal Voter Assistance Program.

We are also looking for your participation to enhance the platform. Civic and voting support groups are encouraged to provide feedback. Casual users are invited to forward this app or the web site link to friends. Election administrators are invited to peruse the information posted for their jurisdictions and to post their data at no charge; contact us to be given access to your jurisdiction's specific service/support channel.

ABVote@ in North America is administered by Votem, Inc., and by Konnech throughout the rest of the world.

Please contact us at info@konnech.com or give us a call at 1-800-381-1499 or 517-581-1830.

AWARD PROFILE Contract Summary



Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) Call # PIID 0003

Completed

Unlinked Award

Awarding Agency

Department of Defense (DOD)

Recipient

KONNECH' INC.

1211 GILBERTS RD STE 107
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62761
CONTRACTING OFFICE
UNITED STATES

Related Awards

Parent Award Unlinked
CONT_IDV_HQ056610A0004_9700

Dates

- Start Date Jul 01, 2010
- Contract End Date Jan 31, 2011
- Potential End Date Jan 31, 2011

\$ Award Amounts

\$91,617

Obligated Amount

Description

THE EFFOR WILL PROVIDE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR AN ON-LINE WIZARD PROVIDING ABSENTEE VOTING CAPABILITY FOR THE STATE OF MONTANA.

Exhibit D - Blanket Purchase Agreement Awarded To Konnech for "online wizard providing voting capability for the State of Montana https://www.usaspending.gov/award/CONT_AWD_0003_9700_HQ056610A0004_9700

da.lacounty.gov/media/news/head-election-worker-management-comp- Update

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Open Letters

Media Relations

211 West Temple Street
Suite 1200
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: (213) 257-2000

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2022

January	February	March
April	May	June
July	August	September
October		

Years

2020	2021	2022
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October 4, 2022: Head of Election Worker Management Company Arrested in Connection with Theft of Personal Data

Contact:
Media Relations Division
(213) 257-2000
Media@da.lacounty.gov

Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón announced today that an executive with a Michigan-based company responsible for the software used in managing Los Angeles County election poll workers has been arrested as part of an investigation into the possible theft of personal identifying information of those workers.

"I want to thank my prosecutors and investigators for their commitment to eliminating cyber intrusions against government entities and local businesses," District Attorney Gascón said. "Data breaches are an ongoing threat to our digital way of life. When we entrust a company to hold our confidential data, they must be willing and able to protect our personal identifying information from theft. Otherwise, we are all victims.

This investigation is concerned solely with the personal identifying information of election workers. In this case, the alleged conduct had no impact on the tabulation of votes and did not alter election results. But security in all aspects of any election is essential so that we all have full faith in the integrity of the election process."

Earlier today, Konnech Corporation Chief Executive Officer Eugene Yu was taken into custody on suspicion of theft of personal identifying information by investigators from the District Attorney's Office Bureau of Investigation with assistance from the Meridian Township Police Department in Michigan. In addition, hard drives and other digital evidence were seized by LADA investigators.

The District Attorney's Office is seeking Yu's extradition to Los Angeles.

Konnech distributes and sells its proprietary PollChief software, which is an election worker management system that was utilized by the county in the last California election. The software assists with poll worker assignments, communications and payroll. PollChief requires that workers submit personal identifying information, which is retained by the Konnech.

Under its \$2.9 million, five-year contract with the county, Konnech was supposed to securely maintain the data and that only United States citizens and permanent residents have access to it.

District Attorney investigators found that in contradiction to the contract, information was stored on servers in the People's Republic of China.

The East Lansing Police Department and Ingham County Sheriff's Office in Michigan also assisted in the investigation.

Exhibit E -Los Angeles County District Attorney Press Release - October 4
<https://da.lacounty.gov/media/news/head-election-worker-management-company-arrested-connection-theft-personal-data>